

THE Hongkong Weekly Press AND China Overland Trade Report.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome	441
Leading Articles:—	
Russia	442
Learning Chinese	442
The Chinese Army—and Others	443
Chinese Theory and Practice	444
The Viceroy and the Railway	444
Young China Methods	445
The Court of Criminal Appeal Bill	446
Hongkong Legislative Council	446
Finance Committee	447
Hongkong's New Consul.....	447
The Hang-Fire Railway	447
Supreme Court	448
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce	450
Up-To-Date Pirates	451
"Loongwo's" Trial Trip	451
Hongkong Bathing Parties	452
The Third Gymkhana	452
Murder on the S.S. "Indorelli"	453
Alleged Attempted Murder	453
A Testimonial to Missionaries	453
French Fleet in Orient.....	453
Tree Felling	454
Botanical Investigations.....	454
Canton	455
Canton Notes	455
Whampoa Again	456
Macao	456
Correspondence	456
A Gruesome Custom	456
New Meteorological Data	456
The Returning Coolies	456
Weihaiwei Gold Mines	457
New Shipyards for Shanghai	457
Chino-Australian Trade	457
Gruesome Ceremony in China	457
Shipping Competition	457
Commercial	458
Shipping	460

MARRIAGES.

On June 11th, at Shanghai, HENRY W. CHANDLER, to ELIZA MACGREGOR AITKEN, of Singapore.

On June 15th, at Shanghai, SAMUEL WILLIAM ROBERTS, to NORA LILIAN, second daughter of GEORGE CASSIE WILSON, of Shanghai.

On June 21st, at the Church of Saint Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London, by the Rev. Hamilton Rose, M.A., ROBERT SHEWAN to DOROTHY KATE WOOD, only daughter of Mrs. LUCAS, 64, Ashley Gardens, S.W.

DEATHS.

On June 13th, at Shanghai, A. W. BRIGHTWELL, I.M. Customs Service, aged 23 years.

On June 17th, at the Italian Convent, Caine Road, DYTLLYS MAY THORNTON, youngest child of L. E. BETT, aged 8 months.

On June 17th, at Canton, MAX KRITSCHMAR (by drowning), a native of Pirkau, Germany, aged 22 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVAL OF MAIIS.

The German Mail of May 22nd arrived, per the ss. *Seydlitz*, on the 20th instant; and the French Mail of May 25th is expected to arrive, per the ss. *Tonkin*, on Wednesday, the 27th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The romance of Peking is rapidly fading. We hear they are getting a steam-roller.

Chinese in Corea have appealed to the Japanese to protect them from riotous Coreans.

The second gunboat for the Chinese Government was launched at Kobe on June 12th. It was named the *Chu-ung*.

H. E. the Governor has appointed Mr. F. Southey to be Chief Draughtsman on the Kowloon-Canton Railway Construction Staff.

Japanese papers are beginning to have their own "yellow peril." They are dwelling on the significance of Chinese attacks on Japanese settlers.

A handsome cup presented to the Boys' Brigade by Major-General Villiers Hatton for sailing competitions has been received in Shanghai.

The *Nanfangpao* has a story that the Chinese Government threatens to confiscate the Kiang-pei concession if work is not commenced within six months.

The prevalence of piracy in South-west Corea has necessitated the dispatch of two warships. Two destroyers are already engaged in checking piracy in the vicinity of Mokpo.

The Y.M.C.A. held a successful "at home" at the rooms, Alexandra Buildings, on Saturday night. An agreeable musical programme was rendered and refreshments were served.

A Shanghai milk-seller, charged with adult ration, 25 per cent. water, pleaded that his cows had foolishly eaten some wet grass. The Magistrate, who cannot have had much sense of humour, fined the good man a hundred dollars.

The Japanese Government has decided to send another large batch of police to Corea. The force will consist of 700 men, 200 of which will serve under the Residency-General and 500 under the Adviser to the Corean Police Department.

A Chinaman reported at the Chekwan Police Station on June 18 that as he was journeying from Chekwan to Nanchun he was held up by four armed robbers who bound him, relieved him of all he possessed—\$28—and departed into Chinese territory.

A Chinaman was drowned in the Bowrington Canal on June 20th. He had been fishing for cockles in the mud at low tide, and passing under the bridge was seen no more. Apparently he must have stepped into a hole and was drowned before assistance reached him.

The *Hankow Daily News* reports that the French cruiser *Décidé*, while trying to reach Nanchangfu in the Poyang Lake, ran ashore at a place called Mankong, about thirty miles from the entrance. She was believed to be badly ashore, and a considerable rise in the lake would be necessary to refloat her.

The *Nanfangpao* understands that a Japanese Commissioner of Customs has been appointed to Antung, and it is stated that Japanese Commissioners will be appointed to any other places opened in Manchuria. Our bi-lingual contemporary fails to see why the Commissioners must all be Japanese, and adds that if China were to unwilling to agree to such an arrangement she would be stigmatizing herself in the eyes of the world.

A Changtu message states that 2,000 cavalry sent by Viceroy Yuan Shih-kai to subdue the bandits north of Hangtu incidentally collided with a party of Japanese sutlers. They then attempted to surround the Japanese military administration office, but the affair was checked before it became serious.

At a meeting of the Chinese Commercial Union a census of Hongkong's inhabitants was laid on the table. It showed the decrease in the Chinese population since last year to be 19,837. The total number of houses in the ten districts was 8,514, of which 399 were vacant, while there were 765 vacant flats. This census it was decided to submit to the Government.

At the extraordinary general meeting of the local branch of the China Association at the Shanghai Club on June 14th the following gentlemen were elected to serve on the committee for the present year, in succession to the provisional committee:—Sir Charles Dudgeon, Messrs. J. O. P. Bland, A. W. Burkhill, W. B. Clayton, J. C. Henson, H. Keswick, A. M. Marshall, W. Adams Oram, and E. B. Skottowe.

Some excitement was occasioned in the harbour on June 19th when it was discovered that fire had broken out on the steamer *Doric*. The vessel made the usual signals for assistance, but though the fire float did not reach the ship till about an hour after the gun had been fired, other helpers were quickly on the scene. Pickets from the *Tamar* drew alongside and rendered effective service, and when the Water Police arrived a little later, their joint efforts succeeding in extinguishing the flames in the forepeak, to which the fire was confined. It continued to smoulder for some time afterwards, but the naval men and the police saw that there was no further danger before they left. The outbreak took place about half-past five and it was quelled before darkness set in.

Manila is to have a new industry if the plans of a number of her capitalists do not go awry. The first step in this direction was taken, says the local *Times*, in 1903, when permission was granted by the Insular Collector of Customs to E. Zobel, director of the Ayala Distillery, to bring into Manila under contract six Japanese glass-makers. The second step was completed a few days ago when six master glass-makers arrived on the steamer *Yawata Maru* from Japan. These men were brought to Manila with the purpose of establishing a glass works and an establishment for the manufacture of vitrified ornamental bricks and porcelain ware, the raw materials for which are found in the Philippine Islands in abundant quantities.

Reference is again made to the fact that several foreign residents of Yokohama persist in refusing to pay the municipal levies on account of income tax and business tax, says the *Japan Mail*. It has been explained to them that these taxes differ radically from the house tax, which is an impost on tangible property, but they decline to be convinced. On the other hand, if the local authorities proceed against them as they would against ordinary defaulters, the problem will assume a diplomatic character, which the Japanese Government wishes to avoid. The matter is now under discussion and negotiation at the Foreign Office. Meanwhile the total amount of indebtedness on the part of the defaulters is said to be 100,000 yen.

RUSSIA.

(Daily Press, 16th June.)

In more senses than one may the action of the Russian Duma be characterised as disappointing, that is to say, contrary to the predictions usually made by friends and foes alike. It is evidently largely the result of this that it has, temporarily at least, paralysed the councils of its most bitter opponents—the Bureaucracy. There is no doubt that in yielding to the demand for the establishment of a Constituent Assembly, the bureaucratic party were firmly convinced that at their first meeting the new legislators, entirely without political experience, and carried away by the usual socialistic ideas of democracies everywhere, would at once demonstrate their unsuitability for taking any place in the machine of government. This view was shared, but with very different feelings, by those friends of Russia who really sincerely desired to see her emerge out of her present chaos of misrule on the one side and fanaticism in the other. The inexorable logic of fact has proved the forecasts of both sides to have been equally without foundation. The Duma seems at once without any waste of time or words to have set itself to the practical exigencies of the moment, and voted an address to the Crown, which whatever may be thought of its immediate appropriateness had at least the merit of being practical. It commented on the general misgovernment of the Empire, in which everyone not a member of that government, and not a few actually holding high positions in it, must agree, and asked for a formal amnesty of the past. This demand seems to have led to a situation that plainly shows how incapable is the present party of the bureaucracy in power from comprehending the true position. On the eve even of the assembly it had succeeded in persuading the feeble and irresolute Tsar to change his mind for the hundredth time and issue a reactionary ukase somewhat irrelevantly denominated a "Fundamental Law". To this the Duma seem to have given no reply, and, in fact to have ignored it altogether. How it could have done otherwise, having been summoned for the express purpose of controlling these very "Fundamental Laws", whose only basis hitherto has been the momentary caprice of the Tsar, occasionally hastened by the panic fears of his bureaucratic advisers, it is not easy to see. The only one of these councillors who did not seem to have lost his head was Count DE WITTE, and he wisely found it more profitable to resign than to throw in his lot with the feeble incapables who surrounded him. He, however, gave to his master one piece of sound advice, which the latter in accepting contrived to do in the most fatuous and inexpedient manner. Recalling plainly the results that followed Louis XVI's yielding to the first demand of the States General to convert themselves into a single chamber as the Constituent Assembly, Count DE WITTE pointed out the objections to the granting of a universal amnesty, and showed that such a grant would be of necessity destructive of all government, and would lead directly to the fall of the Tsarship. Although DE WITTE's action in this matter was characterised by his enemies as a direct desertion of the principles he had hitherto affected as an advocate of constitutional amendment, there is no doubt of the wisdom of his advice as to the danger of an indiscriminate amnesty; but the Tsar's method of applying it was on a par with all his previous actions which have directly tended to bring about the

present collapse. Never has a wrong-headed monarch had a more favourable opportunity of recovering the good wishes of his subjects: never has one more deliberately thrown away the chance. A brief yet dignified statement of the reasons which took out of the realm of politics a proposal for the indiscriminate pardoning of crimes of very different magnitude would have appealed to the best instincts of the Duma; instead of this, the TSAR in a studiously insulting reply, evidently intended to goad on the members to taking some action which would afford the long sought means of dissolving the Chamber and remitting affairs back to the old chaos, sent for answer that he would only receive the address through a Minister of the palace. With more wisdom than the TSAR has displayed from beginning to end of the dispute, the Duma sent the sensible reply, that it was only concerned with the substance, the manner was a matter of indifference.

On another point the Duma has been stating its disagreement with the policy of the Bureaucracy, and that is the state of confusion prevailing in Russia through the continual attempts at encroachment in Asia. We alluded to the difficulties this policy was causing in the way of any understanding with England. It is noteworthy of how great is the divergence between the Duma and the present party in possession of the ear of the TSAR, that notwithstanding the trouble already engendered by this senseless policy, there is still a powerful body within the Government bent on encroachment in Tibet. Sir EDWARD GREY lately stated in Parliament that under existing circumstances an understanding was impossible, and reading between the lines of recent utterances of the Russian chauvinistic press, the only portion of that press permitted by the present régime to express its opinions, we can easily divine the reason. Primarily the reason that an understanding with Russia was favourably thought of in England was that it would put an end to the intrigues and intermeddlings of the chauvinists, who at the present profess to have the entire Russian Government at their back. The mere announcement that a policy of better understanding was on the tapis has, however, brought the chauvinist press to the front. Its alarms have been excited because the British Cabinet has refused to concede to Russia still further means of interference than she at present possesses. Amongst these are the sole right to exploit Persia, the sole right of making loans, for which of course the capital is to be borrowed in England, while all the profit commercial and political is to go to Russia. The ridiculousness of the situation does not seem to have struck these very innocent negotiators. Now of course it is exactly to render impossible such glaring inconsistencies that the English people are willing to enter into negotiations with Russia, but as the Russian object is rather to obtain condonation for the past and the implied right to make still further demands for the future, it can hardly be said that the time for negotiation has yet arrived. The position is curiously exemplified by the wanderings of the DALAI LAMA, an event not of national importance in itself, but like a feather all the more important as showing how the wind blows. What possible object except annoyance Russia can have in Tibet is incomprehensible to any man of ordinary intelligence, nor is it easy to see what profit she can make out of the DALAI LAMA as an individual. The negotiations entered into with him four years ago, though rather beneath the dignity of a

nation like Russia, were yet understandable as a first effort to open up communications with a hitherto closed nation. Under existing circumstances they have not that excuse. The British treaties made with both Tibet and China exclude the entering of Tibet into relations other than with England or China; and Russia is in no position to deny the right of China or Tibet to enter into any such agreement which does not contravene any acquired right of Russia. In the face of all this we find Russia sending secret emissaries into Tibet. The method is as peculiar as the fact itself. The Russian Church stands in a peculiar relation with the state, political rather than religious, and accordingly we find the Church divided into two well marked divisions. The one charged with religious functions, from which is selected the village curés who have charge of the faithful at home—the other as strictly political, who are sent abroad for the dissemination of Russia's peculiar views. Now it is these latter who have been selected for the task, not of converting Tibet, but on the plea that the TSAR is so well affected towards Lamaistic Buddhism that he has sent these Christian priests to study the other religion. Such a proposal bears on the face of it its own refutation, but it is noteworthy that in the face of all this there should yet be a pretence of a desire for a better understanding. How hollow must be an undertaking founded on such a basis even a Russian statesman might be expected to comprehend; that seemingly the present administration has no conception of what is due not only to foreign states, but to themselves, is the necessary conclusion to be deduced from the premises.

LEARNING CHINESE.

(Daily Press, 18th June.)

In response to a request from the China Association, an interesting memorandum has been written by Sir WALTER C. HILLIER upon the progress which has been made in the School of Practical Chinese which the Association called into being some years ago, under the auspices of the London University. It appears from his report that the opportunity which has thus been afforded for the study of the language has been availed of to a greater extent than might have been anticipated as likely; and he observes justly that the fact that a number of students have regularly attended the classes notwithstanding that they were occupied in the City during business hours speaks well for their industry. With pupils of this class it has been found possible for them to obtain in the course of twelve or fifteen months a foundation upon which a solid superstructure can be built later on, when greater facilities are afforded for the advanced study of Chinese in China itself. He is of opinion that when the advantages of a knowledge of Chinese as a commercial asset become more generally known the value of the school of Chinese will be more widely appreciated and the facilities it offers will be more extensively made use of. With respect to that advantage itself he quotes with approval a passage from "Reshaping of the Far East", in which the position that is adopted is sound and well considered, avoiding as it does the common exaggeration that a knowledge of the Chinese language will be sufficient to make Europeans independent of the assistance of compradores or other go-betweens; a point which has been often urged by writers who were of considerable general authority, but who lacked practical acquaintance with the business relations

which exist in China. This overstatement has done much to engender a distaste for the study of Chinese among commercial men, who are well aware, from their own experience, that the view is a fallacious one. It is, however, pointed out that it is essential that Europeans should very soon be able to deal direct with Chinese in many matters; and this opinion when endorsed by Mr. GUNDY, the President of the Association, at the annual dinner was received with marked approval—a circumstance of significance, seeing the number of important representatives of the China trade then present. "Whatever else may be in doubt," Mr. GUNDY said, "it will be urgently and increasingly necessary—to enable us to hold our own—that men of the rising generation who look forward to a career in China should acquire a working knowledge of Chinese." One great difficulty, however, which has stood in the way of any general study of the Chinese language by those engaged in mercantile occupations has been the doubt whether they may after all be able to turn their knowledge to any practical account. If a man who intends to make a career in China goes through a course of study as a tea taster or silk inspector, he knows that he is not wasting either his time or his money in so doing. He has not long to wait before he obtains a good opening and, if he is a competent man, he may have every chance of making use of his attainments as long as it suits him in China, and, as has often happened, of pushing a valuable business either as broker or attached to some large establishment on his return home. But if a man has by dint of three or four years' hard study made himself fairly acquainted with Chinese, it is quite an even chance whether in reality this acquirement will advance his career at all in China, and it may be taken as certain that it will be no practical advantage to him on his return. The matter stands upon a totally different footing in regard to appointments in the Consular Service or in the Imperial Chinese Customs. In either of these services there is no doubt of the student obtaining ample return in the way of promotion for his trouble in mastering the language; but in a mercantile career, it is by no means certain that any material advantage will be obtained; though of course the probabilities lie in that direction, especially in the present day, when the larger mercantile houses and banks often undertake very important matters in which Chinese who speak no English are largely concerned.

The time may, however, come when it may be worth the while of some of the banks and also of some of the large houses to make use of the services of European interpreters very much in the same way as is done in the Government service; and if so it will be of very great advantage that there should be such facilities for learning something of the language as a preparation for coming to China as are afforded by the School for Chinese in London. The Chinese Association will do good service in continuing its support to it, and may possibly find means of encouraging the study by making certain appointments dependent upon a knowledge of Chinese or even in time arranging for the employment of special European interpreters in some houses.

The great point is that the teaching which is given should be suited to the purpose for which it is designed. It is apt to be overlooked that there are two very different ways in which the Chinese, like any other language, may be studied. It may be learnt merely for colloquial

and general purposes or may be thoroughly mastered with an idea of gaining an acquaintance with Chinese literature, and so obtaining a knowledge of the views and feelings of the people. The latter is of course of very great value to persons in official positions, but it involves far too extensive a study to be undertaken by ordinary people. On the other hand it is not enough, even for merely practical purposes, to have a bare acquaintance with some dialect of the spoken language. This should no doubt form the main object of the mercantile student, but it must also be accompanied by a fair knowledge of the written character. This latter can only be approached as a serious study. To a great extent it is a matter of perseverance, and sheer plodding; but the study may be greatly facilitated by European professors who know how best to present it to the European mind, who have experience in teaching and who are acquainted with those arts by which the attention of pupils is fastened upon details unattractive in themselves; but which can be made interesting by skilled and tactful teachers. There is no reason why English youth should not be able to master so much of the Chinese written character with three or four years' study at home, as with a little perseverance after they arrive in China will give them a sufficient knowledge of it for any business purposes for which it may be required. A hard, and it must frankly be acknowledged, a somewhat grinding study of this kind, can be much better undertaken in a bracing healthy climate than in one which taxes the nerves and energies, as is the case in most places in China. In order, however, to induce young men to go through such a course, there must be some definite advantage held out to them, and it will be well for those largely interested in trade with China to consider whether some arrangements can be made by which suitable men would secure appointments in banks or large mercantile establishments as interpreters, in somewhat the same way as they are engaged in the like capacity for the Government services.

THE CHINESE ARMY—AND OTHERS.

(*Daily Press*, 19th June.)

Calling our attention to some comments in a London newspaper, a correspondent there remarks that the position in China is "beginning to be understood in England." As based on the particular comments cited, we cannot accept this opinion, one of them being that "a few years will put China in possession of forces which will be large enough and effective enough to make foreign Powers think seriously before undertaking expeditions to China". China will then be able, "if she wishes, to revive the principle of the shut door". The continuing remarks show that it is our old acquaintance the "yellow peril" which is just "beginning to be understood" by the English daily. Readers will remember that some weeks ago we published a long article on Chinese army reform by the Rev. E. J. HARDY, British Army Chaplain. Mr. HARDY told us that until two or three years ago China held the profession of arms in something like contempt. "A military mandarin of the highest rank was less considered than the lowest civilian one. He was thought to be *ex-officio* a fool, and his subordinates coolies too lazy to work". It is a fair question if in the last two or three years those old-standing prejudices can have really died out. Mr. HARDY seemed to think so; the

London daily cited by our correspondent, if it took them into account at all, which is doubtful, seems to have assumed their disappearance. On the principle that nothing succeeds like success, it might be thought that Japan's example could not fail to have a powerful effect, yet we know fairly well what is the nature of the Chinese point of view of all things Japanese. We have only to consider the position of the British people and their fighting forces to admit that prejudices the most foolish spring into existence more easily than they can be uprooted. Such weedy opinions of the British Army officer as those attributed to China by Mr. HARDY—the *ex-officio* fool idea, for instance—are not unknown in great Britain, where a certain section of the Press is even found to encourage them. An officer of His Britannic Majesty's army recently made a witty remark to us, when he likened the Member of Parliament to a *compradore*. "Your M.P.", he said, "is told that nothing but a first class article will suffice. He buys as cheaply as possible, and keeps the British public proud of its army by declaring, 'This b'long nampa wan: welly good.' Of course if the nation had a proper respect for its fighting men, it would never tolerate cheese-eating and the rest of the conduct which is really so much unconscious Little Englandism." Here we encounter the curious fact that the Little Englanders are always "intellectuals", representing the more advanced products of civilisation. As a rule, the men who smash their windows for them, in default of better methods of giving expression to their very natural feelings, are less highly civilised. In China the same thing has been observable for a much longer period. The conclusions to be drawn now seem fairly obvious. There is a point in the march of civilisation at which the old, heroic ideals lose force. Great Britain seems to have reached it; China passed it long ago. Our HANNIBALS and ALEXANDERS are forgotten. NAPOLEON is remembered merely as a wholesale murderer, worthy only the contempt and execration of honest men. The coward skulks no longer; he marches in the open, proud of his new definition as a man in whom the intellectual perception of danger happens to be more clearly developed. Hyperæsthetics denounces "methods of barbarism" with all the airs of conscious superiority that the Chinese philosopher assumed when speaking of that *ex-officio* fool, the mere fighting man. Society listens respectfully to our anaemic STEADS; and frowns disapproval at any public appearance of our champion lightweights. Even with gloves, the whilom "noble art" is now by general consent a "brutal and degrading spectacle". The happy mean seems impossible. Society goes to one extreme, and reaction takes it to the other. That is, if it endures long enough. History usually shows it leaving the stage, and another entering, beginning where it began. Nearly a hundred years ago, MILL wrote of the noble ideals of China, the chief of which was their putting of intellect above muscle. "Surely, the people who did this," he said, "have discovered the secret of human progressiveness." But no, even then it was realised that if they were ever to be farther improved, it must be by foreigners. That was to say, by barbarians and methods of barbarism. Europe, MILL feared, would tend to become another China. There are people who already profess to see signs of it, in the case of certain nations.

The Chinese, in addition to, and no doubt owing to, their philosophical abhorrence of war, have suffered other disabilities in

the way of breeding good soldiers. They have always lacked the centralised organisation and care needed to encourage a national army. The individual soldier must feel that he is an essential and appreciated part of the whole machine, or he will be found wanting in the hour of need. The Chinese army must become an Imperial force, administered by one head and without corruption, before it can claim the importance which some on the strength of recent provincial demonstrations, seem disposed to give it. And improvement must begin at the top, in this case. In our opinion, not ignoring the many "hopeful signs" that have been hailed with so much satisfaction, it has not properly begun yet. Effective control from Peking, lending to proper administration in the provinces, is the first essential. When the Government is in a position to check the anti-foreign propaganda and outbreaks in the provinces, it will have little to fear from foreign armies. Meanwhile, we are obliged to maintain that the day of China's appearance as a Power, and of the abolition of extra-territoriality, is still a very long way off.

CHINESE THEORY AND PRACTICE.

(*Daily Press*, 20th June.)

Theoretically, it has often been pointed out, the general arrangements for the good government of China are as nearly perfect as philosophy can invent. Almost every human contingency is provided for. We need not recapitulate the points, nor trouble to show all the ways in which practice falls short of precept. Professor GILES has recently called attention very interestingly to the Chinese penal code; and as this is one of the directions in which Chinese reformers have lately been busying themselves, we may hope to dwell profitably for a while upon that. For over two thousand years China has had penal codes, one based upon another, and all harking back to the classified list of nearly fourteen thousand laws and precedents prepared by HSIAO HO in the Han Dynasty. As each alteration would be in the nature of an amendment warranted by experience, or should have been, it is only to be expected that of them it can be said, "There are many things in Chinese law which in theory appeal to the judicial mind as being almost all that might be desired." In practice, however, the corruption and the ignorance that have made an ideal form of government a vain thing have also made the administration of Chinese law a byword. When Professor GILES explains that no mandarin ever attempted to master the vast agglomeration of statutes in the present code, preferring to depend upon an expert adviser, he might also go on to say that even were the agglomeration less vast, a like disinclination to study it would be evident. Although bribery is a very serious offence indeed, death by strangulation being the specified penalty for accepting "eighty taels for an unlawful, or a hundred and twenty for a lawful object", it is notorious that in China the "weight of evidence" has too often been the weight of monetary offerings. False witnesses, also, have never been difficult to get, notwithstanding that the punishment for a detected case of this has to be, according to the law, heavier than the punishment meted to the person charged supposing his guilt established. Often these miscarriages of justice, or more correctly, carriages of injustice, have been bare-faced and well understood on the spot; but as we recently pointed out,

in pre-telegraph days many things could happen before an appeal could reach the higher authorities, and the rule for men of common sense seems to have been to "grin and bear it". A very unjust official might, according to an ancient custom, be bitten to death by an enraged community; but it is obvious that for such a purpose there would have to be a unanimity which we suppose a smart man could easily find means to prevent. Even now, in 1906, when telegraph wires are rapidly bringing the Central Government into immediate touch with all parts of the empire, we have daily instances of the ineffectiveness of the control really wielded by Peking. The affair at Amoy yesterday, for instance. Professor GILES is said to believe that torture, though not unknown in China, exists there practically in name only. We do not know how general the practice should be to satisfy him that it exists in fact; but there is a well-informed committee in Hongkong which evidently believes that torture was judicially practised quite recently. Decrees from the Throne, abolishing it, and also abolishing decapitation as a method of capital punishment, have appeared; and in certain places are known to have been ignored. With the system of Censors and talebearing, one official memorialising against another, it might be expected that Peking had found a means of effectively checking malpractices by provincial officials. Memorials in plenty we hear of, and occasionally degradations in consequence; but in many instances it would seem that Peking was too busy to attend to them, and abuses continue unchecked, while the wicked flourish. His Excellency Wu TING-FANG himself, the leading spirit in the reform of the penal code, has been greatly disengaged by the disobedience of the officials who cling to old ways. These Decrees were doubtless easily put forth, with a view to furthering the Chinese ambition for the abolition of extra-territoriality; and it may possibly be that apart from that object the high authorities are not greatly concerned as to their strict observance. It is superfluous to say that until such Decrees appear to be a real force in the land, the dream of China for the Chinese must continue to wait its fulfillment.

One consideration suggests itself which is relevant more to our observations made yesterday than to the present discussion. It is the apparent inconsistency of the severely brutal Chinese legal penalties with the Chinese abhorrence of soldiering. The refinements of torture described in the Chinese penal code help to confirm the impression that the Chinese are physically harder than Europeans, more callous to suffering. Yet it is notorious that they shrink from anything like fighting on an equality. The history of torture reveals the truth that torturers need not be warriors. The soft, effeminate, physically degenerate have always been ingenuously cruel. A bearded priest of old would continue the racking process where a battle-scarred man would turn away disgusted. So the mandarin who could sit unmoved whilst a mere child was *ling-chih'd* for accidentally wounding its parent would scuttle away like a squawking hen and leave his hired retinue to face a small band of robbers. The manly knock of giving and receiving blows is a vastly different thing to the ability to countenance torture where no resistance is likely. China undoubtedly possesses the manlier material, but we doubt if it possesses those who are fit to develop and lead it.

Mr. B. S. von Darvasto has been recognised as I. and E. Consul for Austria-Hungary at Hongkong in succession to Mr. N. Post.

THE VICEROY AND THE RAILWAY.

(*Daily Press*, 21st June.)

Although the Canton Viceroy and the Canton people are still at loggerheads over the control of the new railway, the best that Peking seems able to do is to recommend the parties to "be of one mind, and work harmoniously together", according to our Canton correspondent, who forwards us translations of an Imperial Edict received by Viceroy SHUM on June 16th, and of the Viceroy's telegraphic reply. As there is undoubtedly fault on one side or the other, nothing could be more stupid than such weak instructions. The reason that no definite order comes seems to be that the EMPRESS-DOWAGER's partiality for Viceroy SHUM conflicts with a desire to redress the grievances of a restive public. We suspected all along that Viceroy SHUM's apparent "graceful yielding" was cloaking a hostility that would emerge in more subtle form. His reply to the Edict seems to indicate more plainly than usual his determination to get the better of his rebellious constituents. The Edict referred to says it is undoubtedly the best policy for the officials to give "full protection" to the scheme, whereas what the people demand is full control, or protection from their would-be protectors. According to foreign notions of justice, they have every right to resent the official appointments made for the management of their property. The wording of the Edict is pitifully futile in such a case. The perplexed ruler pats the complainant on the back, reluctant to clout the defendant on the head. The Cantonese are praised for their earnestness of purpose and their generosity; and then Viceroy SHUM is asked to "settle the matter in an impartial manner". What unwise statesmanship this, that expects a party to a dispute to be impartial! As a sop, the representatives of the people who were degraded by the Viceroy for presuming to oppose him are reinstated; and the only definite ruling in the whole Decree seems to be that disagreement with a Viceroy is not necessarily sedition. How easily arguments can be produced to bolster a weak case: in the forefront of his defence, Viceroy SHUM makes the excellent-stemming point that many subscriptions came in after he had appointed his directors, thus proving, he maintains, that the appointments were not really unpopular at all. How is it, he asks, that the amount of shares subscribed for was doubled immediately after those appointments? We presume that he refers to the money actually paid in on account, for the paper subscriptions were not doubled in consequence of his appointments. There was nothing to hinder the fulfillment of promises, especially as it was understood that all installments would be refunded in case the scheme fell through. Viceroy SHUM says the only people to protest were a handful of Hongkong merchants instigated by Cantonese gentry. In this case a lot depends upon the way the thing is said. It is admitted that there were instigators, or opponents of his policy, outside Hongkong. It cannot be denied that His Excellency had a short way with those who ventured to express their hostile opinions. What more natural, supposing it be admitted that it was so in fact, that the audible protests should sound louder in Hongkong than elsewhere? For Viceroy SHUM's braves cannot arrest elderly gentlemen in Hongkong, at vice-regal whim and without warrant, as they do in Canton. The Viceroy's personal feelings are not well concealed. His reference to the Cantonese gentry who have made

fortunes without capital is a pretty specimen of special pleading, by one who wants to make an official railway with public capital. If his appointees are rejected, he fears the matter will fall through. If they are not, and it now appears that Peking is deciding for the VICEROY and against the people, it seems certain to fall through. The subscribers will want their money back, and no others will be forthcoming. His EXCELLENCE's denial of a grudge is, by its superfluity, almost an admission; and it is certainly against all knowledge of human nature to believe him. To foreign minds the idea of a deadlock over a question of control and directorship seems absurd, when the natural procedure is so simple. The whole thing should obviously rest with the majority of subscribers, who should be protected from official intimidation. The VICEROY should not be allowed to interfere at all, not even as a shareholder; his part should be confined to the duty of seeing that the requirements of the law are carried out. The advance from the provincial exchequer, of which he makes so much, could easily be repaid by the railway company; the terms being arranged with an eye to the fact that the province must indirectly benefit by the transaction. To grab at once at a railway not even constructed is not a good way to gain security for the loan. The whole position is unthinkable in any country but China; and it is therefore all the harder to see a way out. It is not difficult now, however, to decide that of the Canton-Hankow Railway the VICEROY is a hinderer rather than a helper.

YOUNG CHINA METHODS.

(*Daily Press*, 22nd June.)

When the fox robes himself in gown and bands, and sets up for a preacher, the geese may look out for an uneasy time. Such is the moral we must draw from the position of affairs in northern China; Young China has assumed the gown, and been holding eloquent discourse to the geese on the iniquities of the unspeakable foreigner. The immediate occasion was the superhuman iniquity of the Municipality of Shanghai, which the fox told his flock was actually levying "taxes" outside municipal limits—a sin which fox suggests ought to be punished by goose getting up another course of riots, when the Municipal Council would rightly be called on to pay the indemnity! Poor goose!

When some seven hundred years ago Shanghai was erected into a *hien* district the rivers ran somewhat differently from their present courses. In consequence a little bit was left out in the north-east corner of the *hien*. The railway came into this corner and SHENG KUNG-PAO, who had contrived to get the line into his hands, would not permit LIU KWEN-YIH, the Nanking viceroy, to make up this corner in the extension. As the settlement lies on two sides of it, and communication was needed, a road has been recently made through it. When TSO TSUNG-TANG, a previous viceroy, had taken over the old Woosung railway, the portion of the track running through this corner was made into a road, and successive taotais undertook to keep it in order. It was kept up in some fashion till the recent Young-China Taotai YUEN came into office. The road had become so bad as to be practically impassable, and the Municipality spent some eight hundred dollars on it, after fruitlessly drawing Taotai YUEN's attention to it and the promise of his predecessors. The bill was sent to His HONOUR, who for the first

time ascended the pulpit and read homily number one. The item was, he said, an insignificant one, and in contempt he would pay it; but let all prospective Councils know that the road belonged to the EMPEROR of China, and for the future he would permit no interference. As a salve he added that he, Taotai YUEN, would for all futurity attend to the repairs of the road himself, and would keep it in proper repair. The road is now practically impassable; its width has been the subject of encroachments on both sides, so that it has degenerated to the condition of the ordinary paths in the district; but in one most important respect much worse, inasmuch as it has become the ordinary track of the pirates and salt smugglers, who under the aegis of Young China haunt the district. Such reasons were effective some three years ago in inducing certain land-holders in the neighbourhood to put their hands in their pockets, and make a new road in lieu of that abandoned to decay by Taotai YUEN. Other people came along and built houses on it, and as these people were enjoying police protection, and needed light and water, it was arranged that the Water Company should supply them with water, but the Municipality having no power to raise taxes beyond the actual limits, the Water Company agreed not to supply the water unless the residents agreed to contribute towards the cost of policing and upkeep. As owing to the neglect or connivance of the recent native government authorities crimes of violence had become rampant in this particular district the tenants of the new houses were willing enough to agree to the proposal. This is the theme of preacher fox's last and most eloquent discourse. But this antagonism to matters municipal is by no means confined to preaching to the masses the doctrine of physical force, but is carried to the length of directly encouraging crime. We spoke recently of the lawless condition of the lower province of Kiangsu, owing to the practical encouragement afforded by the officials to armed bands of salt-smugglers, who have recently become bold enough to carry their operations even west of the Tai Hu. Crimes of violence, in most cases traceable to these lawless bands, have of late become unpleasantly frequent in the districts adjoining the Settlements, and even within the limits, where the whole of the ground is not yet occupied. Practically all the outer roads to the north and east are unsafe after nightfall. A recent case of attempted jail-breaking engineered by prisoners known to belong to these smuggler gangs, was fortunately suppressed by the promptitude of the jail officials; but for some minutes the situation looked extremely dangerous; several lives being lost on the side of the rioters, and some of the police guards having met with severe injuries. This attempted emeute, there is every reason to believe, was intimately associated with the murder, close to one of the most frequented thoroughfares, of one of the warders, a crime to which no clue has as yet been discovered. It is known that the emeute within the walls was to have been accompanied by a rising of these desperadoes outside, and it is probable either that the warden had obtained some clue to this, or that he was supposed to have in his possession a key to the outer gate. From time to time, under existing regulations for the Mixed Court, prisoners captured outside limits have to be sent into the native city for trial and punishment. In most cases merely nominal punishments are inflicted; and it is notorious that in practically every case where the prisoner has been sentenced, owing to the carelessness or connivance of the jail attendants, the prisoner has managed to get out. In no case has any attempt been made to capture him again. Whether this proceeds from the fears or the unwillingness of the MAGISTRATE to punish a prisoner sent in by the foreign Municipality does not appear, but there are strong reasons for attributing it to the latter cause. An instructive instance of the lengths to which the present generation of officials will go was afforded only the other day. A prisoner had been arrested in the settlements in the act of making counterfeit coin, and with all the machinery and implements of the art. The case was too clear for even the present MAGISTRATE to refuse to convict, and he was sentenced to a term of imprisonment and taken to the Municipal jail. As not infrequently happens in the case of this crime, the prisoner had wealthy friends, and the influence of this became soon apparent. It was of course a source of trouble that so promising a subject should be made to undergo the disgrace of being lodged in a Municipal jail. But the subject was delicate and had to be carefully worked out. The first step was a very politely worded notice that the prisoner's health was suffering from his confinement, and that it was necessary that he should be treated in a native hospital. To this the Council rudely replied that it had received daily reports of the condition of the prisoner's health, and in none of these was there any notice that the prisoner in question had anything whatever the matter with him; there was, however, a hospital attached to the jail, and in case of illness he would be carefully treated. The next step showed that the officials themselves were actually at the bottom of these attempts to upset the course of justice. We have before this hal occasion to comment on the fantastic rule which makes the consul senior by residence, independent of any other qualification, the intermediary between the Chinese authorities and the Municipal Government. In the present instance the Belgian CONSUL was the Senior. Avowedly the smaller European States are in favour in Peking, as not being likely to raise "frivolous" objections; and of all the minor countries Belgium stands highest. Of course this lasts only during good behaviour, so the coast was seemingly clear. The SENIOR CONSUL accordingly wrote in a mild letter to say that the crime of false coinage being one of those reserved for the judgment of the higher courts, he would feel obliged by the Municipal Council having the prisoner sent into the city for future judgment. The CHAIRMAN replied that as the prisoner had already been tried and sentenced, and the whole question of the regulations were at the moment under discussion, the Council could not comply. At the same time it was pointed out that this was not the first attempt made to get possession of the prisoner, and the story of the feigned illness was duly explained. It is not necessary to follow the story to the end; enough has been shown to indicate the methods being adopted in China generally by the party of irreconcileables to sow dissension, and retard the coming of a better time for the Empire. We see the same thing happening everywhere, whether with railways or mines; whether with regard to the Customs, or the Post Office, or the Army; or in fact everything wherein a foreigner can come in contact with a Chinese official. That history repeats itself is an old and well-worn aphorism; nevertheless it is instructive to find in old PETZL AGGER that precisely the same arguments

were used, the same appeals to mob rule made, and precisely the same dispatches written a century ago in the bad old days of KIAKING and HIKKUNG, to oust the foreigner from Canton: Young China has not even the merit of originality. The foreigners then were less than a hundred: they are now tens of thousands. What failed then is not now more likely to succeed. It may, however, cause very serious trouble.

THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEAL BILL.

(*Daily Press*, 23rd June.)

The Bill introduced by Lord LOREBURN, formerly Sir ROBERT REID, the Lord Chancellor, for establishing a Court of Criminal Appeal, appears to be arousing arguments as much characterised by sentiment as by sense. Its inception, we suppose, was largely due to the sentiment aroused by the unfortunate case of Mr. Beck; at least it was immediately after the discovery of that gentleman's legal hardships that clamour arose in the Press for this supposed remedy. Apart altogether from the merits of the Bill, we fail to see how a Court of Criminal Appeal can be a sure remedy against the most glaring evils noted in that case, which were the cocksureness with which some people will affirm a thing, the lack of fairplay and impartiality in the Police, and the stupid tradition which assumes the infallibility of the Law. Men have taken the priest from his pedestal, have probed the editorial abstraction "we", but they still cling to the humbug of the judge's wig. The wearer of the venerable unachronism may be a mere jackanapes, who in the club among men is voted a bore; but on the Bench he is a fetish. He is not regarded as a man of flesh and blood prone to human error; but as an incarnation of an abstraction we all wish to respect, but which has now come to be spoken of as "that ass". However, avoiding further digression, let us call attention to Mr. Justice BIGHAM's recent address to a grand jury at Manchester Assizes. He is thus reported:

"For centuries it had been the exclusive right of the English people to determine the question of the guilt or the innocence of an accused man. The jury, drawn from the people, discharged this solemn duty by its verdict, and with their verdict no Judge or Court of lawyers hitherto had any right whatever to interfere. This close connection between the public and the administration of justice should be jealously preserved. It made the law popular in the best sense of the word. It gave to the people a sense of security; and it placed the judgments of the Court above criticism, because it based them on the assent of the public. This principle had been maintained since the days of the Great Charter. The new Bill proposed to violate it by an appeal to a Court of three lawyers, whose decision, or the decision of two out of the three, was to have the finality which at present attached to the verdict of a jury only." His experience was that juries "deliberated with anxious care". There are plenty of other judges whose experience would be differently stated, unless tightly closed eyes be a symptom of anxious care. The theory of juries is a noble one; it is a principle worth fighting for; but do not let us have any nonsense about its perfection as a system. Too often the jurors are present against their will, their minds obsessed by workaday interests. Very often they are so impressed and swayed by plausible advocates as to be mere marionettes. Lacking that pulling of the strings, they are a body of untrained, emotional creatures, whose judgment will often follow the slightest of human

inclinations, the droop of a woman's lip, or the vocal vibrations of a good male actor. On top of that, it is few juries who realise the extent of their power. The man in the wig, theoretically present to legally express the jury's verdict, intimidates them. He orders them to be locked up; and generally manages to put them more in the mood of accused persons than of authorities who rule the destiny of the case. Then he sometimes misdirects them; tells them that certain evidence that impressed them was irrelevant; draws their attention to what he considers the really significant features; and, in short, practically suggests their verdict. No man who has served on juries will say this is exaggerated; and the stronger-minded men, or let us say, the contradictory men, who have endeavoured to lead their less sturdy colleagues to an independent decision, soon find out the awe in which the bewigged oracle is held. We agree with Mr. Justice BIGHAM that "a jury might make a mistake", and we will go further and say the same of an Appeal Court formed of lawyers. We fancy his brother judges will not approve of his remark that "It was not difficult to see the possibility of prejudice, religious, political, or social, influencing the Judges, or at all events, of such prejudice being imputed to them. No doubt prejudice might influence a jury also; but it was less likely to affect the verdict of twelve than the verdict of two or three." Theoretically, we should say an appeal court of two or three trained legal minds would be less liable to prejudice than a jury of twelve lay minds; but since Mr. Justice BIGHAM affirms the contrary, it is not for us to contradict him. Certainly we have watched judges and lawyers at work who were as easily influenced by trifles as any juryman. But take another of his Lordship's arguments, an argument employed also by other opponents of the Bill. It is that juries, knowing their verdicts subject to revision on appeal, would be less careful than they are at present. If we could accept that unreservedly, we would fight the Bill tooth and nail. But it seems to us that it might work the contrary way. Knowing that their decision may be reviewed will make some men very careful. Does the knowledge not so affect judges? We realise, of course, that the jury would be discharged, and presumably have no further interest or responsibility in the case. But Mr. Justice BIGHAM, who has such a high opinion of juries, will surely admit that they may feel a moral responsibility. His best argument is the one of delay, and certainly anything tending to add to the law's delay must be bad. Academically, however, a delay in hanging a man should be less noxious than the delay which a rich debtor can engineer to baulk his creditors. Rogues would undoubtedly appeal, but in their case with less chance of success than the ADOLF BECKS of this world; and it is worth while postponing the happy despatch of a few rogues to give innocent men a chance of escaping undeserved punishment. The proposed establishment is, of course, a multiplying of tribunals, it means more expense to the country; and appeals on questions of fact are usually a nuisance. Some sort of compromise ought to be found, to reform police methods of prosecution, and to so reform the Home Office that appellants under the existing procedure will be sure of receiving adequate attention. To avoid the present risk of a strongly prejudiced judge, it might also be well to take away his discretionary right to refuse to state a case.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on June 25th in the Council Chamber at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT:-

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MATTHEW NATHAN, K.C.M.G.

HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR-GENERAL VILLIERS HATTON, C.B. (Commanding the Troops).

HON. MR. T. SRRGOMBE SMITH (Colonial Secretary).

HON. SIR H. S. BERKELEY, K.C. (Attorney-General).

HON. MR. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

HON. MR. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

HON. CAPTAIN L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE, R.N. (Harbour Master).

HON. MR. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

HON. DR. HO KAI, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

HON. MR. WAI YUK.

HON. MR. E. A. HEWITT.

HON. MR. E. OSBOURNE.

HON. MR. W. J. GRESSON.

M.R. A. G. M. FLETCHER (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

PAPERS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of H.E the Governor, laid on the table the following papers:—Report on the Botanical and Foresty Department for the year 1905; report on the Hongkong Volunteer Corps for the year ending 31st March, 1905; report of the Inspector of Schools for the year 1905.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of H.E the Governor, laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 39 to 41, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

HIS EXCELLENCE—Financial minute No. 39 provides a sum of \$1,000, in addition to the sum of \$1,000 for which provision has already been made in the estimates, for compensation for damages caused by disinfection in plague cases and also a sum of \$2,000, in addition to a sum of \$3,000 for which provision was made in the estimates, for the burial of plague corpses. These additions to the amounts that have been provided are necessary on account of the outbreak of plague this year having been more serious than in the two preceding years. The total amounts, with the provision now proposed, will be less than those spent in 1903, when the outbreak of plague was of about the same severity as it has been this year. Financial minute No. 40 is for a bonus to Mr. T. A. Hanmer, who has been acting for various officers absent or doing other duties in the Government service since the 16th of May, 1903. His services were no longer required and his engagement came to an end on the recent return of Mr. Gomperts. He applied, however, that he might be granted his pay for the rest of the month and the application seemed to me as reasonable as I hope it will seem to members of the Finance Committee. Financial minute No. 41 is for the construction of a small post office at Kowloon. The post office will eventually be in the Terminus Station at Hunghom Bay, which will be convenient for the collection and distribution of letters. This Terminus Station, however, is not likely to be completed for two or three years, and the growing importance of Kowloon renders it advisable in the meantime that greater postal facilities should be given to that place. It was proposed to me that for this purpose a building should be rented, but on going into the question I found the cost of renting a building for three years would be nearly as much as the cost of erecting more suitable premises; consequently I decided to put up the structure now in course of erection, facing Salisbury Road. You will think it is possibly a little late for me to come to the Council for money for a building that has already been started, but the reason is, I originally mentioned the expenditure out of Miscellaneous Works—Public Works Extraordinary. On going through the list of works being constructed on that item, it seemed to me advisable to make a rule that

no building costing more than \$2,500 should be started without the special sanction of this Council; consequently I propose to transfer this sum of \$5,700 to the special vote I am asking for to-day, and the Director of Public Works has noted that I expect a saving of \$5,000 to be made on these Miscellaneous Works item.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of H.E. the Governor, laid on the table report of the Finance Committee No. 5, and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

WORKMEN'S CARS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Sir, I beg leave to move the resolutions standing in my name.

The resolutions were:—

"1. Resolved that the resolution regarding the running of workmen's cars by the Hongkong Tramway Electric Company, Limited, passed by the Legislative Council on the 15th September, 1904, be rescinded as from to-day.

2. Resolved that until further notice the Hongkong Tramway Electric Company, Limited, shall provide the following number of cars every morning and evening, at such hours not being later than 7 a.m. nor earlier than 5.30 p.m., as the Company shall think most convenient, for artisans, mechanics and daily labourers, at fares not exceeding 2 cents for the single journey and 3 cents for the return journey:—

MORNING.

From Kennedy Town to Arsenal Street, 2 cars.

From North Point to the junction of Wing Lok Street and Connaught Road, 4 cars."

EVENING.

From Arsenal Street to Kennedy Town, 2 cars.

From the junction of Wing Lok Street and Connaught Road to North Point, 4 cars.

These resolutions have reference to the running of workmen's cars by the Hongkong Tramway Electric Company. The present resolution which compels the Company to run certain cars at certain times has been found to work hardly upon the Company, the workmen for whom the cars are running not taking advantage of them. The Company, nevertheless, have been obliged to run these cars. The matter has been under the consideration of a small committee upon which sat, I understand, the senior unofficial member, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, and my friend, the Hon. Mr. Brewin. They will be able to give to the Council any further information they desire as to the reason why the resolutions which I now move should be passed in place of that passed by the Council on the 15th September, 1904. I now move the resolution be passed to the effect that the Company shall run the specified number of cars every morning and evening at such hours not being later than 7 a.m. nor earlier than 5.30 p.m. as the Company may find most convenient, for artisans, mechanics and daily labourers, at fares not exceeding two cents for the single journey and three cents for the return journey.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—I beg to second the motion. As the Attorney-General said, these resolution and the outcome of certain remarks by the senior unofficial member on the last occasion that a resolution on the subject was brought before Council. The consideration of that resolution was postponed pending an inquiry into the whole question by the small committee which your Excellency appointed. That committee came to the conclusion that the reason why the cars were not availed of so much as seemed reasonable was in great measure due to the difficulty which the workmen had in understanding that the cars existed for their benefit, which resulted in their not taking advantage of them. The committee furnished the Government with a report, and it was in consequence of that report that the present resolution was brought forward. It of course remains to be seen whether, after the recommendation of the committee is adopted, the workmen will avail themselves of these cars or not. It is the intention of the Government to invite the co-operation of the Chinese in making known as far as possible the benefits which the workmen will derive from moving to the suburbs, and taking advantage of this service of trams.

His EXCELLENCE—The gist of this resolution is that the workmen's cars going

from the west in the morning should not as heretofore stop at the Central Market but should go as far as Arsenal Street, and that workmen's cars coming from the east in the morning should not as heretofore stop at No. 2 Police Station but should go on to the junction of Winglok Street with Connaught Road. That is to say that workmen having their business in the west of the town may still come from east of it and find trams convenient, and workmen having their business in the east of the town may utilise the workmen's cars from the west.

The motion was agreed to.

MINING LICENCES.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to empower the Governor to grant licences to search for and prove minerals and to grant licences and leases of land for the purpose of working mines and minerals.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

His EXCELLENCE—The origin of the Bill now being introduced is an application which was received in July of last year from the Hon. Sir Paul Chater for a licence for himself and his employees with respect to minerals in the New Territories. As hon. members will be aware attempts that were made to get minerals from what are now the New Territories at a time before these Territories came under British jurisdiction failed. The gentlemen who have taken up the undertaking again are, however, confident that they are likely to meet with more success in the future than has been met with in the past. Certainly if they do meet with success their operations will greatly assist the development of that part of the Colony. It is therefore necessary that the Government should give them every reasonable assistance. I was advised by the Law Officers of the Crown that I had no power as matters stood to grant the permission to mine in the Colony which was asked for. Article 12 of the Letters Patent of 19th January, 1888, constituting the office of Governor and the Commander-in-Chief of Hongkong and its dependencies, sets forth the power of the Governor as regards grants. (Quots.) No instructions have been addressed to the Governor of Hongkong with regard to the disposition of land for mining purposes and as there are no laws or regulations in force on the subject the Attorney-General advises that the simplest way of dealing with it is for the Council to pass a short bill giving the Governor in Council the necessary authority to grant prospecting and mining licences and mining leases. That is the object of the Bill now introduced.

The motion was agreed to.

NAVAL AND MILITARY WORKS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to authorize the construction and maintenance of certain naval and military works upon and over certain portions of the Crown foreshore and sea bed situate upon the harbour frontage of the City of Victoria, in this Colony. He said—The reason for the introduction of this Bill appears on the short memorandum which is attached to the Bill itself. Shortly it is to legalise the erection and maintenance of the works that may be necessary for the effective working of the Army and Navy. As everyone is aware very extensive naval works are at the present moment in progress. The Ordinance legalises what has been done in respect of any naval or military works and legalises whatever may be necessary in the future. The Bill is one that ought to pass shortly.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the Council go into Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and this was agreed to.

On the Council resuming,

His EXCELLENCE reported that the Bill had passed through committee without material amendment.

THE DENTISTS' BILL.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said—With respect to the third order of the day, since the last meeting of the Council when I stated that I would move the adoption of the report of the Law Committee on the Bill, I have had certain amendments suggested to me which I think are worthy of consideration. I would therefore propose that, instead of the Bill being considered

by a committee of the whole Council, it be referred back to the Law Committee and brought up at the next meeting of the Council.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and this was agreed to.

ASYLUMS BILL.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for the establishment of asylums for the detention, custody and care of persons of unsound mind, and others.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was passed.

His EXCELLENCE—I adjourn the Council to Thursday, 28th June.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held afterwards—the Colonial Secretary presiding. The following votes were passed:

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in aid of the vote, Sanitary Department—Other Charges, Plague, for the following items:—

Compensation for damages by disinfection,	\$1,000
Plague corpses, cost of burial,	2,000
Total,	\$3,000

BONUS.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of one hundred and seventy dollars (\$170) in aid of the vote, Judicial and Legal Departments, B.—Magistracy—Other Charges, Bonus to M. T. A. Banmer.

KOWLOON POST OFFICE.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of five thousand seven hundred dollars (\$5,700) in aid of the vote, Public Works Extraordinary, Buildings—Post Office, Kowloon.

HONGKONG'S NEW CONSUL.

AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE POPULAR.

Already, in the few weeks that he has had to make friends, Mr. Amos P. Wilder, American Consul-General at Hongkong, has attained the approval of his nationals, and the respect of all others who have come in contact with him. Mrs. Wilder is also well-liked. We learn from an American exchange that Consul Wilder was born at Calais, State of Maine, in 1862. He is a Yale man. Like so many other of America's ablest men, he has had an intimate connection with journalism. He has, in fact, edited several papers in the United States. If he has a mental fad at all, it is his respect for early American traditions, and the "simple life" as Garfield understood it.

THE HANG-FIRE RAILWAY.

CANTONESE "CROWN AGENTS."

The Canton correspondent of the *Daily Press* states the position up-to-date of the Canton-Hankow railway scheme to be somewhat as follows:

The Viceroy of the two Kiang provinces, who sent a deputy to investigate the attitude of the Viceroy of the two Kwang provinces toward the railway promoters, has declared for the people against his official colleague. He has sent a memorial to Peking, containing the report of his deputy, Yuen Shiu-fan, and adding that all the trouble arises from an argument between the officials and the gentry. The people had done indeed well to collect ten million dollars, but they could collect still more for the scheme if it were not for official meddling. He (Viceroy Chau Fuk) begs the Throne to restore the titles and honours of Tai Kwai-pui, and the others whom Viceroy Shum had denounced, degraded and imprisoned. This restitution was necessary to pacify the indignant people. Until the public mind was put at ease, the line could not be proceeded with. The memorist had heard that Viceroy Shum was again denouncing the popular representatives, and that he had recommended the appointment of five railway directors whom the Cantonese people objected to. This was very bad; it would prevent further subscriptions coming in. He would send his deputy to Peking to report personally, and to beg for an Edict ordering the settlement of this affair. [Later news on p. 455.]

[June 25, 1906.]

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, June 15th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.**BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE)****CLAIM FOR MONEY LENT.**

Susan Singh sued A. Samad to recover the sum of \$81.40, money lent.

Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow) stated that plaintiff had agreed to accept \$63 in payment of the debt.

Plaintiff was called, and stated that defendant owed him altogether \$200.

His Lordship—You won't take \$63 then?

Plaintiff—if your Lordship pleases.

His Lordship—It is not what I please; it is what you please.

Plaintiff refused to accept the amount offered, and the case was set for Tuesday morning.

RENT IN ARREAR.

Cheng Chee-yuen v. Yeong Kam-shing was a claim for \$12 on account of a month's rent.

Chow Ah-sing, who appeared, said the defendant was her mother-in-law.

His Lordship—What have you got to do with the case?

Witness—My mother-in-law fell ill, and I took her to the country. She is now dead.

His Lordship—How do you know she is dead?

Witness—She died on April 16th; then I came back to Hongkong.

His Lordship—Where do you live?

Witness—at First Street.

His Lordship—Why don't you pay your rent?

Witness—I don't mean to say I refuse to pay, but in consequence of the death of my mother-in-law I have got no money.

On his Lordship's instructions the writ was amended and served on the witness, and plaintiff got into the witness box and proved his claim.

Defendant said she only owed rent for 26 days.

His Lordship—Well, why don't you pay?

Defendant—I don't mean to say I don't wish to pay it.

His Lordship—Well, why don't you pay it?

Defendant—Because several people died in the house, and my daughter died there too.

His Lordship—You had better pay up. There will be judgment and costs for the plaintiff.

Defendant—Am I to pay at once, or when shall I pay?

His Lordship—Arrange with the plaintiff.

ANOTHER CLAIM FOR RENT.

Kwok Nam sued Lin Chu-yan to recover \$24 due for rent.

Defendant admitted owing the amount.

His Lordship—Well, why don't you pay?

Defendant—Many boarders on the same floor took ill and went away, and I am unable to pay for the lot. Besides, a number of dead rats were found in the house.

His Lordship—I am sorry for it. Judgment for plaintiff and costs.

Monday, June 18th.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.**BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).****RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY.**

Cheung Yau was arraigned on a charge of receiving stolen property.

The Attorney-General (Sir Henry Berkeley) instructed by Mr. G. E. Morrell (of the Crown Solicitor's office), prosecuted, and the accused, who was undefended, pleaded not guilty.

The following jurors were sworn:—Messrs. A. Jenkins, J. Gittings, E. O. R. Vollbrecht, J. A. Young, S. M. Thorne, O. Staeger and C. J. F. Neitl.

The Attorney-General stated that the prisoner had been committed for trial on a charge of armed robbery from a junk but that he (the Attorney-General) had reduced that charge to one of receiving stolen property. Unless the prisoner could satisfactorily explain how he came into possession of the goods found on board his junk a few days after they had been stolen by a gang of armed robbers from another junk, the jury would be justified in finding him guilty.

After hearing the evidence the jury returned a verdict of guilty, and his Lordship sentenced the prisoner to three years' hard labour.

MANSLAUGHTER.

Li Sam was charged with manslaughter.

The Attorney-General (Sir Henry Berkeley) prosecuted, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. R. D. Atkinson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon), appeared for the accused who pleaded not guilty.

The following jurors were called:—Messrs. W. T. Stebbing, J. E. Meyer, O. P. Hecht, A. R. Kinross, J. D. Kiunaid, J. Johnston and A. C. Diss.

The Attorney-General stated that the prisoner was a member of the "Li" clan and the deceased belonged to the "Chan" clan. A fight took place between the two clans in the Pingshan district, New Territory, on April 16th, owing to some of the women folk of the "Chan" clan cutting grass on land which the "Li" clan considered they had no right to. During the fight the members of the "Li" clan attended in so great a force that the "Chan" clan executed a great movement—they ran. The "Li" clan followed in pursuit, among them being the prisoner, who was carrying a "joss pole", a tapering piece of wood four or five inches in diameter at the butt, ten or twelve feet long and surmounted by a square piece of wood at the top, the latter being about eighteen inches square, and half an inch thick. During the pursuit the prisoner struck one of the "Chan" clan on the head with this "joss pole", breaking the pole, and also the man's head. The master was reported to the police, who visited the district and arrested twenty-three men, among whom was the deceased, then alive. On May 3rd the wounded man died from the effects of the blow delivered by the prisoner. Evidence was led, and the case adjourned.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).**UNPAID EMPLOYEES.**

J. F. Saavedra sued the Dr. McLaughlin Company to recover the sum of \$340.30, salary due from the 21st February to April 3rd; and C. B. Perkins claimed from the said company \$801.03, being as to \$50¹ damages for wrongful dismissal, and \$301.03 for balance of amount due by the defendant firm.

In the first case Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiff; in the second Mr. J. H. Gardiner (of Mr. O. D. Thomson's office) appeared for the plaintiff, while in both actions Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Mr. John Hastings' office) represented the defendants.

The solicitors in the cases consenting, the actions were heard together.

J. F. Saavedra said he was engaged by Mr. Perkins on behalf of the defendant Company as acting manager, and produced his appointment. He continued to manage the business until he got his discharge on April 3rd. The manager of the Company was in Hongkong, and witness applied for his salary, amounting to \$340.30, which amount had not been paid. While acting manager he had correspondence with the head office of the Company at Shanghai, and they sent him a draft to be used on behalf of the Company.

By Mr. Dixon—The letters were addressed to the manager of the Company. When the general manager came to Hongkong witness applied for his salary, but the manager had no money to pay. He did not ask for employment with the Company at a small salary and 20 per cent. commission. The Company had no comrade when he joined, neither did they have one while he acted as manager.

His Lordship—What is to be the result of this? Supposing I give judgment against the Company there are no assets.

Mr. Dixon—Yes, my Lord. The assets have been attached.

Continuing, witness said he did not remember having a conversation with the firm's comrade outside Tak Cheong's shop in Queen's Road.

Mr. Dixon—Are you a married man?—I am.

Where is your wife?—In the United States.

Are you married to a woman residing in Hollywood Road?—No.

Do you know a woman who goes by the name of Della Huard?—Yes.

And you'll swear that woman is not your wife?—I will.

You are living on the proceeds of what that woman makes, aren't you?—No, sir.

How long have you been out of employment?—Since April 3rd.

C. B. Perkins was next called by Mr. Gardiner. He said he was first engaged by the defendant company in September, 1904, at \$225 a month and 5 per cent. on the gross takings.

His Lordship—Who engaged you?

Witness—Mr. J. F. Burns, manager of the Company for the East, at Shanghai.

Continuing, witness said he had been employed by the Company for seventeen days, during which time he had exclusive power as manager. Then his wife became ill and he had to take her to America.

Before leaving he appointed another manager who was recognized by the Company. Witness wired the Company in Shanghai to appoint a manager, but as he got no reply he appointed Mr. Tompsett. He returned from America on March 18th, 1905, and renewed his engagement, taking up his duties on April 1st.

He had control of the firm's Canton branch, and subsequently of the branches at Saigon Singapore and Bangkok. On August 28th it was arranged that witness was to receive 10 per cent. on the gross takings of all outside offices, but he only received three per cent.

Mr. Fitzgerald, who represented the Company arrived here from Shanghai on August 1st. Witness told him he wished to resign if he could not get more pay.

The arrangement then was that he was to receive \$25¹ per month and five per cent. The \$25 by which his salary was increased was to be shown each month as office expenses.

Witness had never had a full month's salary since July, 1905. His accounts would show that there had been a deficiency of from \$300 to over \$1,000 due to him. He had wired and written letters asking for his money, but as he did not receive it he left for Shanghai, appointing Mr. Saavedra manager during his absence.

On arrival at Shanghai he met Mr. Wong Po-tsz, the general manager of the Company for the East, and after telling him the condition of the business, asked for the \$1,000 due to him. Wong gave him \$100, saying that he had lost about \$18,000 and was not in a position to pay in full. Wong then said he would make a settlement on April 1st, and granted witness leave to go and see his wife.

The appointment of Mr. Saavedra as manager was mentioned, and no objection was raised.

Witness returned to Hongkong on April 1st, and on the 3rd he dismissed Saavedra and told him he would be paid when Mr. Wong arrived here. At Shanghai Mr. Wong gave him to understand that he could keep this office open two months longer; then if it did not pay he was to go to Singapore. Mr.

Wong arrived here on April 8th, and wired \$500 to settle accounts in connection with the Bangkok business. On the 9th he asked for the accounts of this branch, which he said he would settle.

When he saw them he said the amount was too much, as he had brought only \$1,500.

Witness furnished Wong with an account showing an amount of over \$1,100 due to him. Of this amount \$74¹ was paid. Witness spoke about Mr. Saavedra's salary to Mr. Wong, but he said he would not pay it.

Nothing was said at this interview about dismissing witness; on the 10th he asked if his services were concluded, and Wong said—"Oh, no. I can't very well discharge you until you are paid off."

On the 9th stock was taken; everything was found satisfactory and Wong gave a receipt that the stock was correct.

In the 10th witness received a further sum of \$250, and gave a recipt for it as April's salary.

When Mr. Wong left Hongkong he told witness he would cable the money due, but as it did not arrive witness wrote stating that if he did not receive it by May 1st he would take action.

On the 3rd the manager of the International Bank informed him that he had received \$344.58, but that he was not to deliver the amount unless a receipt was signed in payment of all claims.

Cross-examined by Mr. Dixon—At present witness was engaged with the Great Northern Steamship Co. He was engaged for a time in the sale of certain watches.

Mr. Dixon—Are these the coupons?—Yes.

It is a swindle, isn't it?—No, sir, it is genuine. It is a scheme that originated in your own city of London.

How much have you made out of the business?—I didn't make anything; I lost money.

Did you tell the postman not to deliver letters where you are living?—No.

Continuing, witness said that while in America he did not consider he was in the employ of the defendant company. While there he wrote to Dr. McLaughlin asking for employment. He did not mention his salary as \$250 in the monthly report which he forwarded to Shanghai because it was the wish of Mr. Fitzgerald that the extra \$25 he received should appear as office expenses. He attended to the business of the Company and did not carry on any other business. On February 21st he went to Shanghai to try to get the money due to him. Mr. Wong did not say he should not have left Hongkong, and that it would be as well if he returned. The compradore of the Company, Ho Wa-tong, was discharged on February 1st owing to slackness of the business. While witness was absent two months, Mr. Fitzgerald said it would be quite satisfactory to leave Ho Wa-tong in charge. The receipt for \$744 given by him on April 9th was for monies paid out of his own pocket to keep the office in existence. He was connected with the Pacific Oriental Co. in Manila seven years ago; and was arrested and charged with embezzling \$7,000 gold. In connection with the arrest the judge censured the company, and he brought a damage suit against them for \$20,000, but the attorney he engaged left the country and witness did not carry the case on. He entered into a bond with the defendant company to secure the performance of his duties as manager. The bond was returned to him on the 9th or 10th April, and he handed it back to Dr. Guthrie, his surety.

Mr. Dixon—What have you torn out pages 43 to 53 of your cash book for?—It was done in the presence of Mr. Wong.

Where are those sheets?—Destroyed.

By whom?—Me.

Mr. Dixon—The words *carte blanche* do not mean that the manager can go away on his private affairs and leave the Company's business in the hands of somebody else. We paid him and appointed him as manager.

His Lordship—You didn't pay him as a matter of fact.

Mr. Dixon—We appointed him as manager, and we do not want him to go away and put a man of doubtful character in charge, who would ruin any business.

His Lordship—I don't think much of the business to begin with.

Mr. Grist—I want to know for whom my friend appears. He cannot appear at all unless he appears for somebody.

Mr. Dixon—I appear for the defendants.

Mr. Grist—I hat won't do, my Lord; he must appear for some individual.

His Lordship—I was wondering when this was coming. I think you had better settle this; as far as the case goes now I don't think Mr. Wong will shake my opinion. Is the money paid in for what was due before?

Mr. Gardiner—Yes, my Lord, and they have admitted that it is only a question of salary now.

His Lordship—And there is a claim for \$500 damages. Do you think you cannot come to terms on the lines I have laid down?

Mr. Gardiner—I am prepared to take a month's salary.

Mr. Dixon—I don't think—

His Lordship—You haven't got any money, I suppose?

Mr. Dixon—The money is in Court.

Mr. Grist—First of all my friend must appear.

Mr. Dixon—What is your Lordship's ruling on that?

His Lordship—You've got to appear for a person.

Mr. Dixon—I appear for Dr. McLaughlin.

His Lordship—Is he still alive?

Mr. Dixon—Oh, yes.

His Lordship—You couldn't find him, I'm sure. He's disappeared from nearly every country. He had to get out of London.

Mr. Dixon—I appear for Dr. McLaughlin. He is the sole proprietor of the Company.

His Lordship—How do you call it a company if he is the sole proprietor. I should think it would be much better to adjourn the case and consider a settlement on the lines I have laid down.

Mr. Dixon, after consulting with Mr. Wong, said without prejudice the company was willing to pay \$100 only in settlement of Mr. Perkins' claim, each party to pay its own costs.

His Lordship—Well, I don't know whether they will agree to it. I should not if I were them. What about the other man? What is the value of the Company's stock here?

Mr. Dixon—There is nothing here. The stock was sent away and the money paid into Court.

Mr. Grist—I have no security. I want execution against the general manager for the East. I will call witnesses to prove that he is a partner in the firm, and my friend won't appear for him.

His Lordship—This firm has been many days in the police courts in London.

Mr. Gardiner—Dr. McLaughlin does not know a word about this?

His Lordship—No, I don't suppose he does.

Mr. Dixon, after further consultation with Mr. Wong, repeated the offer previously made.

His Lordship—Plus the money paid in?

Mr. Dixon—There is \$240 paid in; we give them \$150 and the balance is returned to us.

Mr. Gardiner—We want costs.

His Lordship—Oh, certainly.

Mr. Dixon—I think we'll go on, my Lord.

His Lordship—You'll have to pay more for it, I'm afraid.

Mr. Dixon called Wong Po-tsze, manager of the Dr. McLaughlin Co. in the East. He said he was not a partner in the firm, but took over the management on August 1st, 1905. During the latter part of that year the Hongkong business was in a very bad way. Witness wrote to Perkins, the manager, saying he would come down and look into things. He arrived here on April 7th and on the 9th in an interview with Perkins informed him that the business was very bad and they were losing money. He told the manager in giving him notice that he would pay him up to April 15th. Perkins replied—"No, I require one month's salary; according to Hongkong law I want two months' salary." Witness said this could not be done, and considered that the manager was discharged from this time. On the following day he gave Perkins one month's salary and obtained a receipt for it.

Cross-examined by Mr. Gardiner, witness said he had no money in the Company but the business here was his. Perkins was absolute manager, and was allowed money for advertising.

What are these belts you were selling?—Electric belts.

Are they similar to those there was an action over in London some time ago?—I don't know that.

You have not gone into the matter; you take them for what they are worth?—No reply.

Does Dr. McLaughlin know these proceedings have started?—I wrote to him last week.

Examined by Mr. Grist, witness said that if he made so much money in the year he had the right to continue his contract; if not, Dr. McLaughlin had the right to dismiss him. The profit was divided equally between them, and Dr. McLaughlin allowed him to draw for personal and office expenses. A few thousand taels were left him to carry on the business, but that was now exhausted. Witness was one of the Company.

After hearing further evidence his Lordship gave judgment and costs for the first plaintiff, and judgment for \$266 and costs in the second case. He also granted Mr. Grist leave to issue immediate execution against Wong Po-tsze.

Tuesday, June 19th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUIANE JUDGE).

INDIAN MONEYLENDER.

Surein Singh sued A Samad for \$81, money due on a promissory note. On July 1st last year plaintiff lent defendant \$57 on a

promissory note, interest to be charged at the rate of five per cent., but it was not stated if this was to be paid monthly or yearly. Plaintiff now sued for the principal plus \$30, charging \$3 per month as interest. For the defence it was stated that defendant had paid interest each month with the exception of the last two months, but when questioned by his Lordship he admitted he had no receipts.

His Lordship—I am always pointing out that without a receipt or endorsement on the promissory note I cannot accept these stories. If you have no receipt you must pay again.

Defendant called a man to support his statement as to the payments made, but his Lordship gave judgment for plaintiff.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

ALLEGED MANSLAUGHTER.

The hearing of the charge of manslaughter against Li Sam, who was alleged to have inflicted fatal injuries during a fight between the Li clan and the Chan clan, in the Pingshun district was resumed but after a protracted hearing the jury returned a verdict of not guilty and the prisoner was acquitted.

Wednesday, June 20th.

IN BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

APPLICATION FOR A RE-TRIAL.

Application was made for a re-trial of the issue between the Official Receiver and Wong Ka-cheung to decide whether the latter was or was not a partner in the Lai Hing Bank at the time of its bankruptcy. The trial of the issue ended very sensationally by seven witnesses against the defendant being committed to prison for perjury. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K. C., and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K. C., instructed by Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton (of Messrs Brutton and Heit), appeared for the appellants, and Mr. M. W. Glade, instructed by Mr. R. A. Harding, appeared for the respondent.

At the outset of the proceedings, the Chief Justice said—Before I call on counsel to argue I wish to draw attention to two points in connection with the file which has been put before me. In the first place there has been a disregard of the order of the Court with regard to the official document, which is the summing up which I gave in the trial. That document has not been put upon the file. In the second place I find a document put upon the file without any prelude, which I have looked through and which I gather is the first draft of the summing up as it came to me from the shorthand writer with corrections which I suppose are the corrections which I made in it. Thirdly, I find an affidavit made by the shorthand writer put upon the file, in which he annexes to it another version of the summing up. Now this, in addition to disregarding the order of the Court with regard to the official version of the summing up, puts upon the file an affidavit made, without any application to the Court, by one of the officers of the Court. That seems to me a most extraordinary proceeding. Again it puts upon the file documents which are the official property of the Court. I cannot conceive how such a thing could have been done, and I shall be glad if Mr. Sharp can give me some explanation.

Mr. Sharp—Do you wish me to explain?

The Chief Justice—Yes, before we make an order. There will of course be an order made.

Mr. Sharp—We thought it was on the file.

The Chief Justice—Which, the official record?

Mr. Sharp—The printed document.

The Chief Justice—This is a file given to me by the officer of the Court in which the most important document is conspicuous by its absence. The printed file is the only authorised version of the summing up.

The Puiane Judge—It was not on the file. It was only handed to me recently.

The Chief Justice—The next point is why an affidavit should be put upon the file together

with two other documents, versions of the shorthand writer's notes, which I can only suppose are put upon the file for the purpose of challenging the summing up. The affidavit is made by an officer of the Court, no application having been made to the Court for permission to avail themselves of the services of the official.

Mr. Sharp—May I say something?

The Chief Justice—Two documents are put upon the file which are the official property of the Court and which have no business whatever to be in the possession of anyone else. The first is the summing up which follows the copy of my notes in which a series of corrections are made in red ink, which I infer are corrections which I myself made on the first draft.

Mr. Sharp—I understand that is so. I have not seen it.

The Chief Justice—I cannot conceive what right parties have to take documents without the permission of the Court. These documents are the official property of the Court.

Mr. Sharp—I think it was understood there was permission.

The Chief Justice—There has been no application made to me for permission.

Mr. Sharp—Application was made to the Registrar.

The Chief Justice.—The only person who can give authority to make use of official documents is the Chief Justice.

Mr. Sharp—I understand application was made to the Registrar, who, I think, is generally supposed to express your Lordship's views on these points, and consent was obtained from the Registrar. It was furnished by the Registrar and we made the alterations from that.

The Chief Justice—The printed copy should be on the file.

Mr. Sharp—I will take the printed copy.

The Chief Justice—It is a most extraordinary document.

Mr. Sharp—I understand this was not known until a few days ago, and that the only copy of the summing up was that which we received from the Registrar.

The Chief Justice—It is a private document. It has no business to be in anybody's possession. The next thing is that an affidavit is obtained from an officer of the Court and another copy set up for the purpose of challenging the official copy.

Mr. Sharp—I think your Lordship is under a misapprehension. As I understand it, this printed copy was not known to exist until quite recently.

The Chief Justice—The printed copy has been in the Registry for the last two months.

Mr. Sharp—We did not know that.

The Chief Justice—I thought it was understood from the very first that all these documents, these official copies, could be obtained at the Registry. I had this copy in my hands certainly two months.

Mr. Sharp—I can only repeat that we went to the Registry and got a copy.

The Chief Justice—All I can say is, it is a very grave mistake on the part of the Registrar. That, however, does not explain the fact that an officer of the Court has been asked to make an affidavit setting out another copy of the summing up for, I suppose, the object of challenging it.

Mr. Sharp—We quite accept the print now we know that it exists. We are going to argue on the print.

The Chief Justice—I want to explain that it is absolutely improper.

Mr. Sharp—We take your explanation.

The Chief Justice—Forgive me. It is absolutely improper, if the judge's summing up is to be challenged, to go behind his back and get an affidavit from an officer of the Court.

Mr. Sharp—There is no intention to challenge your Lordship's summing up. We take your print as official. That was our intention before we came into Court.

The Chief Justice—I am objecting entirely to the procedure in getting an affidavit from an officer of the Court filed without the permission of the Court.

Mr. Sharp—That is a subtle question. We did not know that he was an officer of the Court.

The Chief Justice—I have explained at least half-a-dozen times. When he is authorized to take a note by the Court then he is an officer of

the Court. I cannot understand there being any misconception. These two documents—the affidavit by the shorthand writer and this other copy—must be taken off the file.

Mr. Sharp—There is not the smallest objection.

The Chief Justice—It is not a question of objection at all. I am saying that very improper proceedings have been adopted.

Mr. Sharp—The impropriety is only on the Registrar, who furnished us with the copy which we have put upon the file.

Mr. J. W. Lee Jones, Deputy Registrar, made a statement to the Chief Justice relative to the Registrar, but this could not be heard from the Press seat.

The Chief Justice—That applies to one document. I am referring to the affidavit of the shorthand writer which has been put in without the authority of the Registrar.

Mr. Sharp—May we ask for direction in the future? Supposing in another case we wish to have a certified transcription of notes, is not the proper person to certify the shorthand writer?

The Chief Justice—No, certainly not. He is not an officer of the Court except so far as he is authorised by the Court to take notes. I thought everybody understood that. We could not ask the Government for sufficient money to provide us with a shorthand writer absolutely. We have sufficient funds for a shorthand writer when required by the Court.

Mr. Sharp—If outside that he takes notes—speculatively it may be—is he not the proper person to certify that that note is a correct note?

The Chief Justice—No, not when he is not authorised by the Court; if he takes any notes he does so as a newspaper correspondent.

Mr. Sharp—is not a newspaper correspondent the proper person to certify the correctness of the evidence?

The Chief Justice—As against the judge's note of evidence?

Mr. Sharp—Yes. I think that that is the practice at home.

The Chief Justice—That is a question which we can consider and put before the Court in the usual way. If the judge's notes are to be challenged and if you want to put a newspaper reporter in the box, then well and good.

Mr. Sharp—I think the proper course would be not to put him in the box, but to file an affidavit. I am not speaking of the summing up. I submit that is the only way we can bring the notes of evidence properly before you. It may properly be used as supplementary to the judge's notes. To challenge is not the word I should use.

The Chief Justice—That is another matter altogether. If that is to be done, let the proper procedure be followed. As to the other, it is quite outside the point.

Mr. Sharp—At the time we did not know there would be any proper copy before the Court.

The Puisne Judge—That does not explain the third one. You get a copy from the Registrar and put in another one as well.

The application was then heard.

Mr. Slade took a preliminary objection that the application was out of time.

After discussion, Mr. Slade withdrew his objection.

Mr. Sharp, in opening, said the grounds of their application for a new trial were that the judge in the first instance misdirected the jury in respect of a number of matters, also that the verdict was against the weight of the evidence, and further upon the ground of the discovery of new matters of evidence since the trial which could not have been adduced then. Counsel addressed the Court at length on the first heading, that the jury had been misdirected.

After this the Chief Justice said he had consulted with the Puisne Judge and they found no reason for admitting the shorthand writer's notes as evidence.

Mr. Sharp then asked his Lordship to note the fact that those notes were by the man whom the Chief Justice had appointed as official reporter.

The Chief Justice replied that he had every confidence in the shorthand writer.

The hearing was adjourned.

Thursday, June 21st.

IN BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

APPLICATION FOR A RE-TRIAL.

The hearing of the application was made for a re-trial of the issue between the Official Receiver and Wong Ka-cheung to decide whether the latter was or was not a partner in the Lai Hing Bank at the time of its bankruptcy was resumed. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. G. K. Hall Bruton (of Messrs. Bruton and Hett), appeared for the appellants, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. R. A. Harding, appeared for the respondents.

The Chief Justice, referring to the papers which he had taken from the file the previous day, said he had since learned that the printed copy of the summing up was in the hands of the appellants two days before the other copies were put on the file.

Mr. Sharp said he could not explain until Mr. Bruton had consulted his diary.

Mr. Sharp then continued his address, still dwelling on the ground that the jury had been misdirected and analysing the summing up in support of his contention.

Mr. Pollock said he was not prepared to go any further than his learned friend had gone, as he had dealt very fully with all material points, but he would like a little time to consider other points on which he would like to address the Court, and asked for an adjournment until Monday.

The Chief Justice said that to shorten the proceedings on Monday, it would be as well if the Court were to consider just on what points they would like to hear counsel further, and intimated that they would inform counsel as to what those points were on Saturday morning.

The Puisne Judge—As far as I am personally concerned, I don't want to hear any further arguments on any point.

The Court was adjourned.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Minutes of a monthly meeting of the general committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce held in the Chamber Room, St. George's Building, on Wednesday, 9th May, 1906, at 4 p.m. Present—Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett (Chairman), Mr. A. G. Wood, (Vice-Chairman), Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson, Messrs. A. Haupt, D. E. Law, G. H. Medhurst, N. A. Sieba J. R. M. Smith, H. E. Tomkins and A. R. Low (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 4th ultimo and of the special meetings held on 19th and 26th ultimo were read and confirmed.

METRIC SYSTEM OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The following letter was read:—

Oxford Court, Cannon Street, London,

16th March, 1906.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce,

Hongkong.

METRIC WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Sir,—The movement in favour of the adoption of the metric weights and measures originated with the Chambers of Commerce of Great Britain and later nearly every Colonial Chamber of Commerce has shown approval of the proposed reform.

The Decimal Association, which, as you may remember, was organised by the London Chamber of Commerce, has lately gained very considerable strength, indeed the committee have decided upon the introduction of a Bill in the House of Commons.

In this position of affairs, I feel sure that you will agree with me that it is very important to retain the full measure of support which Chambers of Commerce accorded to the movement in the past.

I fear that lately there has been a falling off in the determination shown by Chambers of Commerce to carry out this reform and perhaps this has, in a measure, been due to a feeling that the conduct of the campaign might now be left to the Decimal Association.

My object in addressing you is to beg of you to use every effort to keep the subject to the front in all resolutions of Chambers of Commerce and in having them in every other way possible continue to show that they remain in warm sympathy with our efforts.—Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) E. JOHNSON,
Secretary.

The Chairman said this letter had crossed one from the Chamber sent on 6th ultimo enclosing donation of £10 and informing the Association that the Chamber's delegates at the forthcoming Congress in London of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire had instructions to support the reform. The Hongkong Chamber had during the past 3 years helped the movement all they could.

TIME-BALL AT KOWLOON.

The following letter was read:—

Colonial Secretary's Office.
34th April, 1906.

Sir,—Referring to your letter of the 2nd October last on the subject of the position of the Time-Ball at Kowloon, I am directed to forward for the information of your Chamber a plan showing the position on which it was decided to erect the new tower.

This site, as you are aware, had recently been marked by a bamboo scaffolding, and I understand that it meets with the approval of the Chamber.

I shall be glad to learn what colour the Chamber consider to be most suitable for the proposed ball.—I have &c.

(Sgd.) T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

The Chairman explained that the site selected by the Government was one of two recommended by the Committee in October last and was undoubtedly the best available as it was visible from nearly all parts of the harbour.

It was decided to recommend black as the best colour for the Time-Ball.

INDIAN COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

Letters were read from the Colonial Secretary and Secretary to the Government of India regarding the formation of a Commercial Intelligence Department for India and the issue of a weekly trade paper under the direction of Mr. Noel-Paton, late Secretary of the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce. It was decided to reply that the Chamber would undertake to correspond with the new department on matters relating to Hongkong and trade with Indian ports.

SIXTH CONGRESS OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF THE EMPIRE.

The Secretary reported that a cable had been despatched to the Secretary of the Congress advising him of the names of the delegation from Hongkong who would represent the Chamber at the meetings in London during July next and that letters inviting the services of Sir Thomas Jackson, Messrs. Gershon Stewart, F. Salinger and R. C. Wilcox had been mailed on the 7th ultimo.

SAN FRANCISCO DISASTER.

The following letter was read:—

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce
30th April, 1906.

Sir,—I have the honour to confirm cable sent to you on the 23rd instant as follows:—"The Hongkong Chamber of Commerce desires to convey to the City of San Francisco and neighbourhood its heartfelt sympathy in the dire calamity which has befallen it."

My committee felt it was only fitting the commercial community of this Colony should assure their friends in San Francisco of the sympathy reflected on this side with the sufferers in what may well be considered the most overwhelming and disastrous calamity in modern times.

The members of the Chamber at a general meeting held on the 20th instant confirmed the action of my committee and in the course of my speech on this occasion I was able to refer to the mutual good resulting from the long standing trade relations now grown to such large proportions which exist between this Colony and California and the City of San Francisco in particular, the chief shipping port in the United States Pacific Coast from which the American mail lines have to make this Colony their terminus in the Far East.

You can therefore be assured that in expressing the wishes of this commercial community including as it does several important American business institutions, that the regret at the calamity which has unhappily fallen on your state is shared very deeply on this side, and I am to express the hope that the recovery to normal conditions may be obtained with that quickness of purpose which is so characteristic of the American people.—I have &c.

(Sgd.) E. A. HEWITT,
Chairman.

His Excellency Governor Pardee,
Sacramento, California.

PETROLEUM IN BULK.

Correspondence was read between the Government and the Chamber regarding the working of tank oil ships at night.

The Chairman said that the *Government Gazette* of the 4th instant contained an amendment of the petroleum in bulk regulations providing for night working of tank oil ships. The Government had very promptly met the suggestions of the Committee in the interests of the oil trade of the port.

CHAMBER'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Correspondence was read conveying the thanks of the committee to Mr. R. Shewan for his services in the Council and advising the Government of the result of the election on the 26th ultimo.

"KWONG TUNG". "TAI ON" COLLISION ACTION.

The following reply was read:—

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
9th April, 1906.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th ultimo covering copy of letter from the Chief Justice to the Governor relating to the "Kwong Tung". "Tai On" collision action recently heard in the Supreme Court, and to express the thanks of my committee for the privilege this Excellency has afforded them of giving an opinion in the matter.

It appears that the larger river steamers under the management of European companies and firms invariably carry two certificated officers, in addition to the captain, under the belief that the extra expense repays them in the additional security afforded to owners and passengers, but the committee cannot see their way to recommend the compulsory adoption of this practice as a similar class of vessel is not required to carry more than a master and "only mate" under English law.—I have, &c..

(Sgd.) A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.

Hon. T. Sercombe Smith,
Colonial Secretary.

CHINESE SUBSIDIARY (SILVER) COINS.

The correspondence with S. J. David and Coy. and from the Star Ferry Company was then read, and it was decided to write to the Chambers of Commerce at Shanghai and Tientsin on the subject with a view to further representations being made to the Peking authorities urging the unification of Chinese currency.

This concluded the business before the meeting.

UP-TO-DATE PIRATES.

CANTON STEAMER LOOTED.

Our Canton correspondent, writing on June 14th, says:—"A few days ago, the steamer *Cheong Fat*, which trades between Canton and Wuchow, was pirated near Shin-hing.

It appears that the pirates had gone on board as passengers, taking their tickets like respectable folk, and remaining inconspicuous until the vessel was approaching Shin-hing. Here they manifested considerable interest in the scenery; and spent a good deal of time looking over the sea. When some small boats appeared in sight, they, the pirate-passengers, overran the steamer, overpowered the crew, and hastily looted the steamer. The small boats came up at a signal, booty worth ten thousand dollars was trans-shipped, and the pirates followed it.

Shortly after they had gone, a Chinese gunboat appeared. The story was poured into the ears of the commander, who actually made haste in pursuit. No report has yet reached Canton of his success or otherwise.

"LOONGWO'S" TRIAL TRIP.

A CREDITABLE PERFORMANCE.

There is no exaggeration in the statement that the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company have achieved a remarkable success in their production of the *Loongwo*, a steamer built to the order of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, and designed for the Yangtse River trade. Launched only two months ago, in record time, she underwent her trial trip on June 18, the result being to add to the credit of the work undertaken by the Company.

The vessel, it will be remembered, has a total length of 342 feet and her tonnage is about 4,000 tons. Since she left the ways on April 18th, she has been engined and equipped with the usual fittings. Such progress has been made locally in shipbuilding that the engines are constructed and fitted here, though many of the fittings and material have to be brought from home. The staff of Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Coy. have also been at work on the ship since she took to the water, and the adequate accommodation and conveniences shown in the construction of the vessel have been embellished by the furnishings, which they have supplied. Comfort is everywhere apparent. In the twelve state-rooms for first class European travellers, there are two beds in each, and their cool, airy appearance is enhanced by the mosquito nets. The presence of such an item indicates the attention to detail which is evident throughout. The first class Chinese rooms, 14 in number, show a special treatment not hitherto accorded this class, and even the second class is in advance of the usual. The bunks for third class passengers number 370, while there is also a liberal allowance for the compradore's staff, boys, etc. In fact there is nothing stinted or half done. The furnishings are indeed luxurious.

The company who responded to the invitation of the directors to be present yesterday had full opportunity of knowing how pleasant it is to travel on such a ship. Her engines, built on the Tweedie-Slick-Yarrow balance principle, minimise vibration, so that nothing of that disagreeable sensation is experienced. Captain McIsaac was in charge of the ship for the day, but Captain Selby will assume command for the owners in a day or two. This is a further indication of the remarkable despatch which has attended the construction of this ship. She has been built and will be handed over to the owners well under the contract time of eleven months, a performance which is highly creditable to all concerned. Those who are competent to judge declare that she is the finest the Dock Company have yet turned out, even superior to the *Tukwo*, and the probability is that another order will soon follow.

When the *Loongwo* left her anchorage yesterday and sailed for the locality between Aberdeen and Stanley, where the tests are usually carried out, the weather conditions were most agreeable and the prospects left little to be desired. Arrived at the measured mile, the *Loongwo* was run over it four times, attaining an average speed of 13.5 knots, which was regarded as exceedingly satisfactory, her contract speed being 13 knots. Afterwards the anchor was dropped and the company sat down to tiffin in the well-appointed dining-room. Mr. W. Wilson, manager, presided and there were also present—Messrs. R. Mitchell (assistant manager), H. T. Richardson, Captain Kent, J. Macdonald, W. A. Crake, G. Caldwell, C. H. Ross, A. Sinclair, R. Sutherland, Captain Selby, McEwan (chief engineer), Captain Christie, M. Daily, W. Ramsay, Captain Innes, Captain Douglas, F. C. Wilford, H. Carmichael, R. Tester, Lieut. Belgrave, R. W. F., A. McKenzie and A. Wilford.

The Chairman, in proposing "Success to the *Loongwo*", expressed a hope that the owners, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., would find the vessel a success. He was sorry that their representative, the Hon. Mr. Greason, was unable to be present, but he was very pleased to see Mr. Ross and Mr. Sinclair there. The *Loongwo* was the biggest ship the Dock Company had turned out, and he hoped she would be the greatest success of any yet built (hear, hear). He thanked the gentlemen for their

attendance and hoped they would have a pleasant time.

Mr. Ross, replying on behalf of the owners, thanked the Dock Company for what he believed to be the very good work they had put into the ship. She was the biggest ship so far that they had built, but he hoped it would not be long before they built a larger (hear, hear), and that they would lay down a very much bigger one within the next few months (cheers). He understood that several river steamers were about to be built, and he hoped that at least one of those would come to the Dock Company. He asked those present to drink success to the "Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company", coupled with the name of Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Wilson suitably responded.

Mr. Sinclair said he felt so pleased with the ship that he wished to congratulate the Dock Company on the successful issue of that trial trip. They all know how closely he had been in touch with the construction of that vessel right from its inception, and he was quite satisfied that the owners had collected the best material and displayed the best workmanship. He was satisfied with the ship in every detail and he hoped that her record in the books would be as successful as her trial trip that day. He referred to the anxious time which Mr. Wilson and others intimately associated with the growth of that ship, from start to finish, must have had in seeing it develop from a few lines on paper to a fully-grown ship undergoing her trial trip, and doubtless they would experience feelings of relief when they saw her handed over on Wednesday. He was pleased with the excellent results of that trip and wished to testify to the fact that his associations with the employees of the Dock Company had been of the pleasantest kind. He was sure that every one of the firm had put their best work into the ship so that it was what they saw it to-day, very good specimen of marine architecture (applause).

Mr. Mitchell replied on behalf of the staff and thanked Mr. Sinclair for his kind commendations. He felt satisfied that Mr. Sinclair was speaking of what he knew and what he felt. Certainly the *Loongwo* was the biggest ship the Dock Coy. had built and the workmanship all through, from the chief manager down to the humblest artisan, was of the best. He thought they might congratulate themselves now. They were pretty well out of the wood, and, as Mr. Sinclair had said, it was personally a relief to him to know she had had such a successful trial trip. He hoped she would prove equally successful on the Yangtse. He had spoken to several gentlemen, who said she would be the most up-to-date vessel on that river, and he hoped she would have a successful run up. He also referred to the cordial relations between the builders, the owners, and the superintendents. They might not always have been able to see eye to eye, but with a little give-and-take the result was as they saw and could judge for themselves. He thought they could congratulate themselves. He thought they were on the right side. He would not give the figures (laughter), because there was "a chiel among ye taking notes" (laughter), but they could say "it's a richt".

The *Loongwo* then steamed round the island and returned to Hongkong in the afternoon, everybody satisfied with the success of the trial trip.

HONGKONG BATHING PARTIES.

A RECKLESS GRIFFIN.

The June number of the *V. R. C. Magazine* is a bathing number. The editor remarks that bathing is practically the only amusement; and he inserts an article by an avowed griffin which verges on the dangerous. The article is witty in parts, and in other parts may be provocative of more annoyance than amusement. The griffin says he learned that it is not fashionable for a man to belong to the same bathing party as his wife, or vice versa. We have not heard that before. He seems to have been a little shocked by the "familiarity" (his own word) of some of the bathers; and another of his discoveries was that people did not go with bathing parties in order to bathe. And then he goes on:-

"Well, you who have been on bathing picnics (and who hasn't?) will not require any elaborate details of the proceedings previous to entering the water from such a novice as I am—of the putting up of the screen, of the anxiety of some men to get early into the water, forgetful of the fact that a screen may have only one side and that the others, formed, as they are, merely of the atmosphere, are scarcely opaque; forgetful also of feminine fastidiousness in donning costumes, which takes up time—as I say, I need not go into the details of the consequent horrified screams and the "We're not ready" from the ladies. These things you all understand, I think, so we'll assume that, say, ten minutes have passed, that the men are all in the water, and that the ladies are either dipping their toes into the briny water from the ladder or are bound shorewards in the dingy.

I should state here that I did not swim. I was a mere spectator. The girl with the oval face sat on the bulwarks of the launch, she wore a blue thing with plenty frills and flounces—that is the correct technical language, I think—and after several unsuccessful attempts to overcome my modesty I approached her.

"Why, you haven't taken off your stockings," I said.

She laughed heartily. "Oh, you silly, these are special stockings for—for—bathing, don't you know."

I perceived I had still much to learn.

"Well," I said, "let me see you swim."

"Oh," she replied, "haven't you ever been out on a picnic like this before?"

I confessed I had not.

"Thought so," she said, and probably considering I was not worthy of further attention turned to a lady at her side.

The wisely anonymous writer declares that only two ladies actually entered the water; the older ones go-siped, and the remainder "tried to look pretty, and as a rule succeeded". One of the gentlemen wishing to compliment a lady, said: "Helen of Troy's face caused a ten years' war, but yours—" Then he wondered why she became frigid. The other article, "Hongkong the Hilarious", is brightening up a lot; but it would obviously be unfair to the magazine to give away too much of its contents.

THE THIRD GYMKHANA.

Patrons: His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G.; His Excellency Vice-Admiral Sir Arthur W. Moore, K.C.B. K.C., V.O., C.M.G.; His Excellency Maj.-Genl. Villiers Hatton, C.B.; Commodore H. Pigot Williams, R.N.

Committee: The Stewards of the Hongkong Jockey Club (ex-officio), Lieut.-Col. Aitken, Major Parker, Messrs. G. K. Hall Bruton, C. H. Ross, J. A. Jupp, and H. P. White, Mr. C. H. Ross—Judge; Mr. H. P. White, and Major Parker—Handicappers; Mr. H. P. White—Clerk of the Scales; Major Parker—Starter; Mr. W. W. G. Ross—2nd Starter; Mr. T. S. Forrest—Time Keeper; Mr. C. G. Mackie—Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

The third meeting of the Gymkhana Club was held at Happy Valley on June 16th in beautiful weather. The attendance was large, the turf in good condition, and an excellent programme of music was provided during the afternoon by the West Kent Band under the baton of Bandmaster McKelvie. Some good races were put up, but the dividends paid by the Pari Mutuel were smaller than usual, the highest for the day being \$21.10, the amount Preston paid in the hurdle race. H. E. the Governor arrived after the first race and witnessed the events from his stand. Results were as under:

ONE MILE AND A QUARTER FLAT RACE.
Handicap.—For all China Ponies. Non-winning Jockeys allowed 5lb. Entrance fee \$5. 1st Prize: A Cup presented; 2nd Prize: \$25. (Entrance fees to go to winner).

Mr. G. K. Hall Bruton's Preston, 10st 11lb (Mr. Master) 1

Mr. C. G. Mackie's The Quaich, 10st 9lb (Mr. Mackie) 2

Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson's Ionic, 10st 9lb 1lb overweight (Mr. Gresson) 3

Mr. D. Macdonald's Highland Gillie, 10st 1lb, 1lb overweight (Mr. Gegg) 0

Mr. Ottery's Red Herring, 9st 8lb, 5lb allowance (Mr. Deacon) 0

The field got a good start, and as they passed the post for the first time Highland Gillie and Red Herring raced almost neck and neck in the lead. The pace from the start was fast, and opposite the football stand the rider of Red Herring endeavoured to increase it with the aid of the whip. For a time the pony responded, but as the rock was reached the rest of the field had drawn up to the leader who fell to the rear and retained last place until the finish. Preston and the Quaich were almost level as they entered the straight and a good race home was witnessed. Preston winning by about a neck. Ionic ran a good third. Time 2 min. 42 1/5 secs. The Pari Mutuel paid \$9.70 on the winner.

LEMON CUTTING. Gallop past two posts (passing post on your right hand), on each of which a lemon (or potato) will be hung. At first post "Cut No. 1 on the right" (i.e., forward on level with shoulder); at 2nd post "Cut No. 2 on the right" (i.e., back cut level with shoulder). Points, 3 for a cut lemon; 1 1/2 for pace; 1 1/2 for style. First Prize presented. 2nd Prize: \$25. Entrances fee \$3.

Mr. Belgrave 1

Mr. Dupree 2

Mr. Logan 3

Most of the competitors in this event proved themselves fairly expert swordsmen, and all managed to cut a slice off a lemon. There was a great laugh, however, when one of the entrants, with his charger at the gallop, dealt a "Black Knight" blow at a lemon and knocked down the post from which it was suspended.

GYMKHANA CLUB CHALLENGE CUP.

Distance One Mile.—Value to be declared when Cup is purchased. For all China Ponies. Catch Weights at 10st. 6lb. Winners of an open race or open Griffin race 3lb extra. Non-winning Subscription Griffins allowed 5lb. Non-winning Jockeys allowed 5lb. To be won by the pony scoring most marks in the races for the Cup, counting 4 points for a first; 2 for a second; and 1 for a third. The benefit of marks already scored to pass with the pony on a sale. Any winner of the race to carry 5lb. extra for each win in subsequent starts for the Cup, but in the event of a pony carrying the penalty not winning, 2lb to be deducted next time he starts. Penalties accumulative up to 15lb. Entrances fee of \$5 to go in the purchase of a memento to the winner of each race, and \$25 to second pony (out of the Club funds). At the conclusion of the Season a Cup, value \$10, will be presented to the Owner of the pony obtaining the second highest number of marks.

Mr. G. K. Hall Bruton's Kingston, 10st 11lbs (Mr. Master) 1

Mr. W. G. Clarke's Pathan, 10st 2lbs, 1lb overweight (Mr. Clarke) 2

Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson's Ionic, 10st 6lb (Mr. W. J. Gresson) 3

Father O'Flynn's The Jobber, 11st 1lb, 5lbs allowed (Mr. J. Gresson) 0

Mr. D. Macdonald's Highland Gillie, 10st 11lbs (Mr. Gegg) 0

After four false starts the field got away. Ionic was on the rails with Highland Gillie alongside, but they were displaced by Pathan and Kingston, which ponies drew ahead of the field leaving the others three deep behind. Racing neck and neck the leaders were far ahead of the field opposite the football stand, and as they topped the incline it seemed impossible that any of the others should get near them again. Passing the village, however, Mr. Gresson gave Ionic its head and the pony proved that it was a goer and a stayer, for it overhauled the leaders about half-way up the straight and the final run was a willing one. Kingston passed the post a neck ahead of Ionic and Pathan, who ran a dead heat for second place. Time 2 min. 8 1/5 secs. Dividend on the winner, \$7.1.

LADIES' NOMINATIONS.—Each lady will be provided with 3 polo balls. Ladies to stand on the mud course, gentlemen (dismounted) on the grass course. Ponies may be held by Mafoos. On the word "go" ladies will throw polo balls to gentlemen, and as soon as a competitor has secured three, he can mount

and ride to a point indicated and deposit polo balls in a basket. First past the post with three balls in basket to win. Polo balls must be carried in the hands—pockets, &c., may not be used. First and Second Prizes presented by the Club. Entrance fee \$3.

Mr. Dupree, nominated by Miss Bruton ... 1
Captain Smith, nominated by Mrs. Wise ... 2

The ladies appeared to find their task in this event much easier than where tiresome figures were concerned, and were so accurate in throwing the polo balls that not one accident has to be recorded.

THREE QUARTERS OF A MILE FLAT RACE.—For Hongkong and China Subscription Griffins of any season. Weight for inches as per scale. Previous winners at this season's Gymkhana barred. Winners of an official race to carry 7lb. extra; of two or more races 10lb. extra. "Off-day" winners at Hongkong or Shanghai to carry 3lb. extra. Unplaced ponies in an official race allowed 5lb. Non-winning Jockeys allowed 5lb. Entrance fee \$5. 1st Prize: A Cup presented; 2nd Prize: \$25. (Entrance fees to go to winner).

Mr. W. G. Clarke's Lashmere, 10st 11lb ...
(Mr. Clarke) 1

Mr. Ottery's Red Herring, 11st 1lb ...
(Mr. Master) 2

Mr. Henchman's Diadem, 10st 10lbs, 5lbs ...
allowed (Mr. Gresson) 3

Mr. Hickolff's Roscommon, 11st ...
(Mr. Hickman) 0

Mr. A. C. Hynes Ingot, 11st 5lbs ...
(Mr. Dupree) 0

It was surprising to see Diadem, the outsider, making the running in this race. He maintained the lead until the straight was entered. Red Herring, Ingots and Lashmere then being close behind. Lashmere challenged Diadem and passed him in the home run, also Red Herring, who was a length behind at the post Time—1 min. 35 secs. Dividend \$8.

HURDLE RACE.—For China ponies. Distance about one mil. and a quarter. Catch Weights 10st. 8lb. Winner of hurdle race at first and second gymkhana to carry 5lb. extra. Entrance fee \$5. 1st Prize: A Cup presented by G. C. C. Master, Esq. 2nd Prize: \$25. (Entrance fees to go to winner).

Mr. G. K. Hall Bruton's Preston, 10st 8lbs
(Mr. Master) 1

Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson's Eager, 10st 8lbs
(Mr. Jeslin) 2

Mr. W. J. Daniel's Baluchi, 10st 8lbs ...
(Mr. J. Gresson) 0

Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson's Mamodeen, 10st
8lbs (Mr. Dupree) 0

Mr. C. G. Mackie's The Quaich, 10st 13lb
(Mr. Mackie) 0

Baluchi shot to the front as the flag dropped, but was soon replaced by Eager, the Quaich being second and Preston last. Opposite the Golf Club the Quaich fouled a hurdle, throwing his rider, who fortunately escaped without serious injury. Eager was not far in advance, but going up the incline he was pursued by Preston and Mamodeen, the former pony overtaking him as the straight was entered and beating him on the post.

The Pari Mutuel paid a dividend of \$21.20.

MURDER ON THE S.S. "INDRAVELLI."

THE SPIRIT OF GAMBLING.

The s.s. *Indravelli*, with a number of repatriated coolies on board, arrived in the harbour on June 19th and immediately hoisted her police flag, when the Water Police pinnace ran alongside, and an officer boarded the steamer. He learned that early on the morning of the 18th instant, while the vessel was on her way from Singapore to Hongkong, a coolie tried to recover £2 10s which he had advanced to another coolie. Apparently he pressed so hard for payment that he annoyed the debtor, who hurled a basin at his head, but failed to hit him. The creditor then asked for the re-payment of £1, but even this amount the debtor refused to hand over, so the creditor did not press him further for a time.

Later in the day the creditor observed a number of coolies gambling in the hold of the ship, and after watching the play for a time,

apparently thought that he would like to try his luck, so he returned to the coolie who owed him money and again demanded £1. The debtor drew a knife and made a lunge at his creditor, but did not strike him. Then the accused snatched the knife from the debtor and stabbed him twice in the heart. Death resulted a few minutes later, the cause being internal hemorrhage. The coolie who committed the murder will be tried at the Police Court to-day.

ALLEGED ATTEMPTED MURDER.

SMART CAPTURE BY THE POLICE.

About 3.30 p.m. of the 20th June a fortune-teller named Leung Luug, who resides at 13, MacGregor Street, Wan Chai, quarreled with his wife, and as they fought he drew a knife, stabbed her in the breast and inflicted several nasty gashes on her head and arms. The woman fled downstairs and into the street, crying as she ran "save life". She went to a friend's house at Praya East, told her what had happened, and the friend went with her in search of a constable. They found one on his beat on the Praya, explained matters, and he accompanied them to the woman's home, where, on arrival, they found that the fortune-teller had disappeared. The constable took the injured woman to No. 2 Police Station, where Inspector Gourlay and Sergeant Lee dressed her wounds and sent her to the Government Civil Hospital. Inspector Gourlay then despatched detectives in search of the fortune-teller and he was arrested within two hours just as he was leaving in a ferry launch for Yau Ma Tei. The case will be heard at the Police Court a week hence, when the woman is expected to be well enough to appear. Charges of cutting and wounding with intent to kill and murder, and of cutting and wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, have been preferred against the man, who has been remanded in police custody.

A TESTIMONIAL TO MISSIONARIES.

WHY WE ARE NO LONGER PRE-HISTORIC.

Major Ritchie at Singapore has been lecturing to the Y.M.C.A. on pre-historic man. He is reported to have said that "we are obliged to count by tens, though twelves would make a more rational system, simply because our ancestors counted by ten fingers". It would be interesting to be told why twelves would make a more rational system. Also Major Ritchie seems to have been bolder than any other anthropologist when he averred that "primeval man loved and was faithful to his wife, whom he won by fighting".

But it is probable that the lecturer was misreported. There is an obvious misprint in the remark: "It was once believed that pre-historic promiscuous intercourse was practised by prehistoric people." The report is most amusing where it ascribes the remarkable advancement of the human race (from the pre-historic standard) to missionary work! We had better append the statement itself:

"In conclusion, Major Ritchie gave an interesting eulogy upon the remarkable advancement of the human race, and the sublime conditions that existed, and connected this wonderful change with the growth of missionary work. He appealed to the members of the Y.M.C.A. to do all in their power in the direction of improving the conditions of our race."

FRENCH FLEET IN ORIENT.

COPYING BRITISH REDUCTION.

There is to be a re-arrangement of the French naval force in the Far East. The marine budget for 1907 provides for the recall to France of the *Gueydon*, *Mont Aymon*, *Dupelit-Thouars* and *Guchen*, which will be moved to the Mediterranean Squadron. There will only remain in Indo-China the *Bruix*, *Pascal*, *Descartes*, and other units of the same value, under the command of a rear-admiral, and a vice-admiral will no more be called to the command of the Far Eastern Squadron.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

In the annual report of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps, Major Pritchard says:—On March 31st, 1905, the total strength of the Corps was 269 (including Chinese Orderly Room Clerk). The total strength of the Corps on March 31st, 1906, is 274 (including Chinese Orderly Room Clerk). I hope that there will be a further increase this year when the New Head Quarters are completed. During the past season, 2 members have died, 59 have resigned (2 on Medical Certificate, 18 in the Colony and 39 on leaving the Colony), 3 have been struck off for various reasons. It is satisfactory to note that this is the smallest number that has had to be struck off for many years, and as regards the resignations, a larger proportion than usual have left the Colony. 69 new numbers have been enrolled. The Hongkong Volunteer Reserve Association has at the present date a membership of 231, an increase of 76 during the past twelve months. It has become a very popular association. The members have carried out a large amount of rifle practice throughout the year and a very good average has been obtained. The members have the same privilege of obtaining ammunition at reduced cost as the Volunteers, and carry out their practice at the King's Park Range, Kowloon, which is more accessible than the Volunteer Range at Tai Haug. It has also been decided that a range shall be built for their use at the Peak. The Association has revived the interest in the Colony in a wonderful way, and there is every reason to expect the number of members will continue to increase. It is only fair to mention, however, that a certain number of recruits must necessarily be lost to the Corps annually, owing to the fact that those who are only interested in rifle shooting have greater facilities in the Reserve Association than in the Corps, but the minimum age for members of the Association is 35 years, and if this is strictly adhered to in future it should not then greatly interfere with the numbers joining the Corps. If the members of the Reserve Association had to carry out their rifle practice at the Volunteer Range, I think it is probable that their numbers would be reduced to 20 or 30, and considering the inaccessibility of this range, I consider that the Volunteers deserve great credit for the good results obtained in the China United Services Rifle Association Meeting in which they defeated the members of the Reserve in every event. I think it would be fairer to the Corps if the facilities for rifle practice could be made at least as favourable as those for the Reserve Association. All the members of the Corps have now been equipped with the new short rifle. The Volunteer Troop have been equipped with the Paterson rifle carrying equipment, which seems satisfactory. Swords have also recently arrived from England for the Troopers. It is satisfactory to note that a far larger number than usual have attended over 30 drills; it may be mentioned that, without including the Staff, 12 members have attended over 100 drills, the record number being 147 credited to Bombardier F. O. Day, Right Half No. 2 Company, H. K. V. A. Drills have been carried out throughout the year by the Artillery units with the 15-pr. B. L. Guns and 303 Maxims in addition to infantry drill. The Troop have carried out frequent mounted drills, and the Engineer Company have had technical instruction at Kowloon with the oil engines and searchlights in addition to actual working in conjunction with the Royal Engineers with the various engines and searchlights in the command. All units have taken part in field days together, and a number of the men have had a short training in entrenching. Musketry was carried out during camp with better results than in previous years. Rifle shooting has been taken up with greater keenness than usual and the range at Tai Haug has been in use regularly on at least two days a week and there have been numerous company competitions besides the general practice in the Rifle Club. 31,039 rounds S. A. ammunition were fired by the Corps during the year and 34,074 were supplied to the Reserve Association; it was therefore found necessary to order a larger supply than usual for 1906 and to reduce the gun ammu-

tion, but I would recommend an increased allowance for ammunition in the next estimates to allow for this, as both gun practice and rifle shooting are of the utmost importance.

Out of the total number of 19 officers and 219 N.C.O.'s and men, 13 officers and 169 N.C.O.'s and men attended the camp. 6 officers and 3 N.C.O.'s and men were away on leave of absence, or had leave from camp owing to the exigencies of their business. This total does not include the Hongkong Volunteer Troop, who did not attend the Camp. The average daily attendance was 1275. It is very satisfactory to note that in spite of the period of the camp having been extended from 10 to 16 days, the attendance works out a better proportion than in any previous years. A result which is far better than I expected. A marked improvement was noticeable at all drills this year; in previous years the gun drill has been too slow and I therefore took every opportunity to correct this fault with good results. 23 gun layers were trained and took part in the gun practice. The Engineer Company attended the camp better than in any previous year and were put through a very thorough course by the R.E. mechanists; they also undertook the lighting of the whole camp by electricity with great success. Preliminary instructional practice with the Maxim guns was carried out on three occasions on the range, and the men were practised in quickly getting the gun again into action after a jam. Practice was carried out from four 15-pr. B.L. Guns from Stonecutters' Island, North Shore, on October 28th. Targets were placed on the slopes of Chang Hue. The practice was carried out by sections instead of as a battery as in the case of previous years, this being a better training for the officers for the actual duties they would be required to carry out on mobilisation. On the 23rd October, the practice was elementary for the special instruction of the section officers and gun layers and was therefore slowly carried out, four series were fired, the target for each series being three screens and 12 dummies representing three field guns, six men standing and six kneeling, the ranges varied from 3,050 to 3,350 yards. 64 rounds were fired and the results were good, altogether 16 dummies out of 48 and 10 screens out of 12 were put out of action—total number of actual bullet holes 90. The best series being the last under Captain Skinner at a range of 3,300, in which 14 rounds were fired and 6 of the targets were hit. On 28th October, the positions of the targets were changed, four series were again fired, 10 gun detachments were present and all took part. There was a very marked improvement in the rapid service of the guns in most cases, and the range officer reported that there was a much larger percentage of effective rounds and the ground all about the targets was ploughed up by shell and bullet holes although in many cases the dummies were not actually hit. 71 rounds were fired, and 16 dummies and five screens were put out of action. The best and quickest series was fired by the Right Half No. 2 Company under Captain Armstrong, they fired 16 rounds in 9½ minutes and killed eight dummies out of 12 and all the screens. All the squads were changed on to the Maxim guns and fired at barrel targets; with good results. One Maxim gun jammed frequently; this fault had been found with this gun at preliminary instructional practice on the range and the gun had been thoroughly overhauled by the Armourer-Sergeant who replaced the old barrel with a new one. The fault was due to the connecting rod, new ones had been ordered for some time for all the guns but have not yet arrived in the Colony. Colonel Kent, C.R.A., inspected the men at this practice, and His Excellency the Governor and His Excellency the G.O.C. were present. The C.R.A. reported favourably on the practice. Musketry class firing was carried out more thoroughly than in previous years, and 186 officers and men fired the course; a good average was obtained. The officers and staff sergeants carried out revolver practice, showing a marked improvement on last year. His Excellency the General Officer Commanding inspected the camp and the Corps on October 29th. He informed the officers and men on parade that he saw a distinct improvement, the gun drill was well carried out and with far

greater rapidity than in previous years. The field day showed that the Corps had made a distinct advance, and he was glad to see that points which he had noticed on former occasions at drill and in the state of the camp had been corrected. His Excellency the General Officer Commanding made the following comments on the above Camp Report:—“This is a satisfactory report, for it shows progress all round and the attainment of greater proficiency. The good attendance is the outward and visible sign of the determination of all ranks to improve themselves.”

TREE FELLING.

REMINISCENCES OF A USEFUL DISCUSSION.

The following is from the report on the Botanical and Forestry Department published in the *Gazette*:—

It will be remembered that the questions asked by the Hon. Mr. Shewan in Legislative Council on September 14th, 1904, led to a useful discussion (Legislative Council Paper No. 36 of 1905) upon the best method of managing the Pine plantations on the Island. Eventually the help of the Indian Forestry Department was sought and the Inspector General of Forests advised that the trees should be allowed to grow for 50 years (or in exceptional cases 35) before being felled. This rotation was adopted by the Hongkong Government with the slight change that 35 was to be normal, 30 or less the exceptional term. It was further decided not to cut down blocks of trees except in the part of the Island remote from Victoria, viz., the Tytam and Stanley divisions; the “shelterwood strip system” was to be adopted in the Shaukiwan, Aberdeen and Pokfulam divisions, while the two divisions reaching from Belcher's Bay to the Happy Valley are, His Excellency the Governor has since decided, to be preserved for artistic effect only. The principal localities planted with pine during the year were Aberdeen (96,000 trees), this was the block cut down in 1904; Yaumati (50,000); Pokfulam (10,000); and Tytamuk (10,000). Very little felling took place during the year in consequence of the uncertainty which existed concerning the best means of conducting it. Unfortunately, however, the number of trees removed was swelled by an unusually large quantity of dead timber. As this department pointed out in 1904, the greater part of the plantations in the Island consist of trees which fall off in growth after 20 years and, no doubt, a considerable percentage die at that age or during the subsequent decade. One of the great advantages of afforestation is the improvement of the soil. Pines will grow on very poor soil, but after one or two generations make the ground rich enough to support more valuable and more beautiful trees. This result will never be realized, however, in Hongkong, nor will the pines themselves flourish until the Chinese have been taught not to scrape up the rich pine needle humus from the plantations for fuel. In some old plantations the ground is kept as bare and sandy as when the trees were planted. In consideration of these facts it is satisfactory that the hands of the forest guards have been greatly strengthened during the year for dealing with this difficulty and a large number of marauders have been arrested and punished. The only serious cases of organized stealing of timber occurred at Aberdeen Brick Works and at Moong Kok. In the former case one man was caught after great difficulty and heavily punished. In the latter case three partners of the Government timber contractor were arrested and convicted, receiving various terms of imprisonment and banishment. The Chinese licensed pine plantations in the New Territory have been regularly visited during the year. No cases of overcutting have been detected. A few licences have been cancelled because of the unauthorized cutting of wild trees by their holders. In order to facilitate the re-sowing of felled areas in the Chinese Forest Lots a notice was issued in November reminding licence holders of their obligation to re-sow and offering seed from the Government plantations at cost price for the purpose. Owing to the scarcity of mature seed-bearing trees in the Chinese plantation

the necessary quantity for re-sowing had previously been bought by plantation owners from Canton at about \$6 per lb. as far as could be ascertained. A good many applicants have, as a result, been provided with Government seed at 70 cents per lb. This reduces the cost of seed sufficient for one acre to three cents, when sown in the Chinese w.y. The Chinese plantations in the Shatin Valley, from the Government Forest Nursery at Kanghau south-westwards to the gap, have been purchased by the Government. This block is more or less under the eye of the Government workmen at Kanghau and will require little extra protection. It is fairly well stocked with trees and these will be useful as shelter for the regular plantations when formed.

BOTANICAL INVESTIGATIONS.

EXPEDITION TO CENTRAL FOKIEN.

The following are extracts from a *Government Gazette* report:—At the end of April a well equipped expedition was sent by the Government in charge of the Superintendent to investigate the botanical resources of the Province of Fokien. Four trained Chinese collectors were taken. Foochow was reached on the 25th of April and a houseboat taken at once for the exploration of the more easily navigable parts of the Yuen Fu and Min Rivers. As the Hongkong Herbarium was almost devoid of specimens from Fokien and as our knowledge of the flora of that province is very meagre it was necessary to collect specimens of every species, even down to the weeds of the cultivated fields. This collecting was at once begun on the plains and foothills of the ranges surrounding Foochow, and in 3 days 300 species were collected. The houseboat formed a convenient base for drying and sorting the specimens. On the 29th of April the first rapids were reached, about 35 miles up the Yuen Fu. There is a good deal of virgin forest above 700 feet on the mountains which at this point begin to close in on the river. The finest forest that was seen was that surrounding the Monastery of Fong Kong Tse. The enormous trees of Liquidambar, Maple, Oak and Pine which grew there sheltered a rich flora, and a large number of additional species were collected on the damp rocks and along the mossy rivulets. On the 31st a return was commenced downstream and Foochow was reached again on May 2nd. The chief cultivations on the banks of the Yuen Fu are Lichee, Water Plum (*Myrica rubra*), Opium, Wheat, Oats, Paddi and Rape. In the steep gorges bamboo is extensively grown. Full notes were made on the cultivation and manipulation of these crops, especially on the extraordinarily ingenious methods of transporting the bamboos from the mountains.

A start was made on May 2nd up the Min River, and by the 7th Shui Kau, the highest point navigable for houseboats, was reached. The flora of the banks and neighbouring hills though very beautiful presented little that was new. Tea-oil cultivation was seen for the first time covering the dry hills at Shui Kau. As an experiment is being made with a view to introducing this industry into the New Territory, the conditions were carefully noted. A transfer had now to be made to a rapid-boat and interesting though slow progress was made up the almost continuous series of rapids to Yenping. About 200 species from the banks of the Min were added to the 800 collected on the Yuen Fu, and the opportunity was taken of sorting and writing a key to the species as a guide to further collecting. Yenping lies at the junction of the Kienning River with the Min nearly in the centre of the province and is cut off from the north by a high range of mountains. These mountains are intersected by numerous forest-clad valleys, and it was determined to make a thorough exploration of one of these and of the summits with one collector, sending two further up the Min and leaving one at Yenping to dry the collections. The important work of drying the plants already collected and of those now constantly sent down from the mountains was greatly facilitated by the kindness of some missionaries in Yenping who lent a room for the purpose. The Superintendent with one

collector stayed at the small Chinese village of Buong Kang, about 13 miles from the town, and made an exhaustive collection of the flora of the romantic gorge in which it was situated as well as of the grassy downs at the summit. Both wood-oil and paper are made at the village and the excellent opportunity of obtaining full details of their manufacture was not neglected. Several points which had been obscure or misunderstood in these industries were fortunately able to be cleared up. A full description of these and other interesting results of the expedition are given below. Buong Kang was left and a return made to Yenping after a stay of three weeks. The number of additional species collected there was about 600. A few days were spent in collecting at Yenping while waiting for the return of the two collectors from the Upper Min. Upon their return a rapid-boat was secured and the collections taken back with all possible speed to Foochow and Hongkong which was reached on the 24th of June.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

June 18th.

SAD DROWNING FATALITY.

A sad occurrence took place yesterday afternoon on the river north of the Shamian. A party had left the Shamian on a steam launch on Sunday afternoon for a picnic and having reached clearer waters indulged in bathing. Mr. Max Kretschmar, of Messrs. Carlowitz & Co., suddenly sank and disappeared. He was seen sinking and those of his friends that could swim immediately went to his assistance, but were unable to recover his body. Later in the evening a fisherman found the body and the unfortunate young man was brought back in Mr. Proton's houseboat. Deceased was here only two months, and as he was a fair swimmer it is surmised that he was overcome by the heat as the water was abnormally warm. Deceased was only twenty-two years of age.

THE MERCHANTS' LINE.

The Canton Chronicle has received a telegram from Peking announcing that the management of the Canton-Hankow railway will be entirely left in the hands of the merchants.

SALE OF JEWELLERY.

The Sin Hau Kuk has issued a notification to the effect that all the jewellery seized from the five families Chan Tung-sang, Chau Tit-sai, Fu Ka-yu, Fu Ka-siu and Poon Man-hing are offered for sale. Intending buyers are requested to examine the articles and to make sealed tenders. The lots will be disposed of to the highest bidder.

TRIAD THREATS.

A rich family surnamed Tsui has received a threatening letter signed "Sam Hop-win", a Triad Society chop. The letter informs the receiver that unless a sum of Tls. 5,000 is paid over within a specified time at a given place, the sons of the family will be kidnapped. The family is greatly alarmed, and have reported the matter to the authorities.

TRADE COMPETITION.

Chu-chin, of the Kwong-Wo Co., has petitioned the Sin Hau Kuk stating that the work done by his rival Chan was very poor and that bad materials had been used in the construction of the Praya reclamation. Over forty chung of the retaining walls cracked. Petitioner offers to undertake the work at a cheaper rate and to supply better materials. The Sin Hau Kuk has instructed the reclamation officials to make a careful examination of the whole work and to report.

CUSTOMS NOTIFICATION.

A notification was sent round by the Customs here yesterday stating that importers and exporters must state all values given on Customs applications in Haikwan Taels. Applications giving values in other currencies will not be accepted. There will be posted weekly at the Custom House, and in the two Examination Sheds, notices showing the rates of exchange for pounds sterling, gold dollars, marks, francs and Japanese yen. These rates will rule until new notice has been posted.

June 18th.

IMPERIAL EDICT ARRIVES.

Viceroy Shum received the following Imperial Edict from Peking on the 16th inst.—

"With reference to the memorial sent by H. E. Chau Foo to the Central Government.—As the construction of the railway is an important public affair, and the merchants have agreed to raise the necessary funds to construct it, the officials must give full protection to the merchants, which is undoubtedly the best policy. The carrying out and the completion of this great scheme is entirely dependent on the action of the officials, gentry and merchants of the whole Kwangtung Province. It also greatly depends on the union of the above three classes of people to work harmoniously together. They should be of one mind and opinion, so as not to impede public affairs that are beneficial to the general public. According to H. E. Chau Foo's memorial the Kwangtung people have been very energetic, having already subscribed many thousands of dollars. This shows their earnestness of purpose and their generosity. It is my earnest desire that this railway shall be completed in the near future. I now issue instructions to Viceroy Shum to settle this matter in an impartial manner and to convene a meeting and to appoint a president and a board of directors and to memorialise to me when everything is settled. I also instruct Shum Chun-hueu to superintend with energy the construction of the line for the benefit of the general public.

As regards Lai Kwai-pui, Li Shun-yuen, and Leang Hing-kwai, as Chau Foo's memorial states that they have not made use of sedition expressions, I order that they be reinstated in their titles and ranks. The Poon Yu magistrate has conducted himself rashly and is ordered to be removed from office and to be watched to see if he still does his duties in such a rough manner."

THE VICEROY'S REPLY.

On receipt of the above Edict Viceroy Shum immediately sent the following memorial by cable:—

"When the charitable institutions cabled their memorials to the Central Government asking that the Yuet-Han railway be handed over to the merchants to be constructed by them, there were only ten million dollars subscribed, but about a month later twenty millions were collected altogether. If the president, Cheang Taotai, and the members of the board appointed by me were not popular, how is it that since their appointment the amount of shares subscribed has doubled? The only people who protested were a handful of Hongkong merchants at the instigation of a few members of the gentry who held a different view of the matter. I have no doubt your Majesty will be able to appreciate their action at its value. Some of the Cantouese gentry have gone to Peking and have tried to poison the minds of the officials. If the railway is not placed at once in the hands of the people I have appointed, I am afraid the matter will fall through. The Cantouese gentry here have made their fortunes without capital and the people dread them more than they do the officials. It was distinctly stipulated that should the matter fall through the money would be reimbursed to the subscribers, and before the Imperial Edict arrived there were already rumours that the company would not be floated and that the people wanted the 20 per cent. paid up to be refunded to them.

"I (Shum) have no grudge against them. The concern is now floated and if the Central Government does not approve of the appointments made by me to start the building of the line and if the scheme falls through, then I shall be ungrateful of all the favours His Majesty has bestowed on me and also unmindful of the kindness which has been shown to me by his Majesty's subjects. If I had a hundred bodies I shall be unable to redeem my fault. Other railway schemes have failed in China from inability to raise the necessary funds. With regard to the Yuet-Han railway, we have paid an enormous sum of money to redeem it, the first installment of the foreign loan was repaid with funds from the Government treasury with great difficulty and inconvenience. Should this project fail through I really do not know where to find the money to repay the foreign loan,

and thus it will lead the Government into trouble. I beg that your Majesty will immediately decide to satisfy the wishes of the merchants and approve of the appointments already made by me of the president and the board of directors so that they may take over the railway affairs."

THE PSEUDO-DECISION.

The following cable reply was received on the 16th:—"Shum Chun-hueu's memorial received and contents noted. I have sent you an Edict yesterday instructing you to consult with the merchants. If the people you have appointed as president and directors of the company are men that can be relied upon, I instruct you to start the construction of the line at an early date."

June 21st.

MAUSERS FOR CANTON TROOPS.

The rifles in use at present by the provincial army are old-fashioned, and Viceroy Shum instructed the Sin Hau Kuk some time ago to order a large quantity of Mauser repeaters and smokeless powder cartridges. It is now reported that the rifles and ammunition, which were ordered through Messrs. Carlowitz & Co., have arrived, and that the necessary steps are being taken to take early delivery of them in Hongkong.

A MERITORIOUS OFFICIAL.

Cheang-Ming-ki, treasurer of Kwangsi province, is greatly esteemed by Viceroy Shum, who considers him to be a very energetic and capable official. It is believed that H. E. will probably be promoted to the rank of Treasurer of the Kwangtung Province, which is a much more important post.

THE RAILWAY OFFICE.

The Canton-Hankow Railway Company are contemplating the purchase of Chan Tung-sang's residence, to use it as their head office. The price demanded by Government is said to be Tls. 70,000.

PLAQUE FIGURES.

The Canton Chronicle (the Government Gazette) gives the following returns for plague in Canton. In the Old City, there were 27 deaths in the 3rd Moon, and 26 in the 4th. In the New City there were two deaths in the 3rd Moon, and thirty in the 4th. In the Western suburbs there were 176 deaths in the 3rd Moon and 175 in the 4th. It will be seen from this that plague has been much more severe in the suburbs where dwelling houses are more numerous and where the coolie classes live.

RAILWAY STARTING AT ONCE.

Yesterday the Sin Hau Kuk handed to the President of the Canton-Hankow Railway the seal of the Company. The concern will be officially transferred on the 23rd and operations will be started at once. The railway company are credited with having the intention to buy the premises occupied by the Foo Tak Bank in the Ta Tung Street. It is said that this is one of the largest local banks and that it possesses a vault capable of holding several millions of subsidiary coins.

A POPULAR MAGISTRATE.

The Provincial Treasurer has issued a notice to the effect that Chong Wan-yu is appointed Poon-Yu Magistrate. He is said to be a very fair-minded and energetic official, and his appointment to the post is a very popular one. The new Nam-Hoi Magistrate has issued a notice to the effect that in future all civil suits filed at the Chamber of Commerce and approved will be promptly tried and decided.

CANTON NOTES.

From the Chung Ngai San Po.]

BOLD ROBBERS

There is scarcely a day without some serious case of robbery being reported. One that occurred on the 9th inst. in Hohow market-place, several miles from the city of Tung-on district, was a particularly impudent affair. A gang of over two hundred robbers, all well-armed, broke into the market-place in broad daylight. All the shops, numbering about seventy, were completely ransacked. A district watchman was fatally shot, and about a dozen peasants were wounded. When the robbers departed, they were not satisfied with the spoils

already got, so they carried away nine people, shopowners, and held them to ransom. The business of that market-place is now at a standstill and very few people dare to visit it, even on market day. Some well-to-do citizens are overawed by the daring of the robbers, and dare not sleep in their own houses at night; they take refuge in the mountains.

FLOODS AND CROPS.

Owing to the continued heavy rains and the rising of the West and North rivers, many of the embankments in different districts have been broken. Consequently the first rice crops were seriously damaged and in many places no harvest can be expected. The flood in Kwai-Yau village, Fung-Chun district, was more serious. About five hundred houses were destroyed and the rice crops of over eight hundred mu of land were washed away. Viceroy Shum has sent a deputy officer thither to make an investigation into the condition of affairs, and to take steps to relieve the poor sufferers.

SUGAR CHEAP.

The chief product of Chin-chow and Yang-kiang is cane sugar. The export of sugar from these two districts is valued at over one million dollars. The price in former years was about nine dollars a picul, but of late the price has been greatly reduced and sugar is sold at only about five dollars a picul. The sugar merchants are consequently experiencing hard times.

WHAMPOA AGAIN.

REPORT OF A NEW PORT.

The Chung Nghi San Po, of Hongkong, gives currency to a report that Oo-chung in the Pun-yu district is to be opened as a port for foreign trade. Oo-chung is quite near to Whampoa.

It is some time ago since we reported the presence of some officials from Canton at this place; and it appears that they have now submitted to Viceroy Shum their survey-plan and reports.

According to the Chung Nghi San Po, the matter is so far advanced that an official has been named to take charge, this being H.E. Chang Pat-shi.

Chang Pat-shi, if there be any truth in the report of his appointment, is well chosen. He is a very successful merchant from Singapore, keenly alive to all the points of foreign commerce. He is of Taotai rank, and one of the directors of the Canton-Hankow Railway. The connection between the railway and any development at Whampoa is, of course, a very close one.

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

June 21st.

"KEEP TO THE RIGHT, IF YOU WOULD NOT GO WRONG."

A rule which has existed but been ignored for many years at Macao has recently been rigorously put into force. I mean the rule governing vehicular traffic. Orders are issued that all rickshas and bicycles are to keep to the right of the road. This is just the opposite of the rule in Hongkong and most other places, so that excursionists from Hongkong who bring their cycles will have to be careful not to run into trouble. I do not know why Macao wants to be peculiar in its rule of the road.

THE ST. ANTONIO FEAST.

This religious fixture was celebrated with its customary splendour. There were illuminations, fireworks and music around the Parish Church in the evening, and a large crowd of spectators.

FISHING.

Fishing appears to be the main attraction at present, and good sport is to be had up the river, where fish are plentiful.

OFFICIALS AT LOGGERHEADS.

I hear that during the absence of H. E. the Governor, visiting your Colony, trouble arose between two Government officials on account of a street lamp. Correspondence on the subject is now proceeding.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CROWN AGENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—I have occasionally heard people defend the Crown Agents and the system they represent, and have heard it suggested that the popular outcry against them is prompted in the first place by disappointed contractors. The saying that "Balbus is a bad man" may have been repeated so often as to give that deceased gentleman an undeserved reputation; but what you call the "popular prejudice" against the Crown Agents rests on surer ground. Fresh evidence is always cropping up. For instance:

The Colony of British Honduras has been seeking the consent of the Colonial Office to the construction of a seventy-mile railway to the frontier. When application

was first made the Colonial Office sent out surveyors from the Crown Agents' office and they estimated the cost at £735,000. The Colonists were amazed at the estimate and declined to embark on such an expenditure for a railway "with a gradient of only fifty inches in the mile, no excavation so deep as ten feet, no rocks, and only three insignificant creeks to be crossed." A second scheme was in course of time submitted by the Colonial legislature and disapproved by the Home authorities. Within the last twelve months a third scheme, backed like the previous ones by wealthy and capable contractors, was passed by the local legislature and approved by the Governor. The sum asked for was £3,750 a year for ten years. This scheme, like its predecessors, met with objections at Home, and the Colonial Office acting no doubt on advice tendered by the Crown Agents' office, submitted instead a scheme for a twelve-mile railway into a country which may in time develop a banana trade. The cost of this project is £50,000, compared with £35,000 spread over ten years for a seventy-mile railway which would tap virgin forests and reach the trade of Guatemala and South Mexico. Thus, while the Crown Agents would have been permitted to make an extravagant construction that would have cost £735,000 and while the Colonial Office is willing to burden British Honduras with an expenditure of £50,000 for a twelve-mile railway where in the opinion of the Colonists it is not needed, they will yet not permit the Colony itself to build a railway 70 miles long to the trade centre which contains a third of all the inhabitants for an expenditure of only £1,500 a year for ten years—Yours truly,

CAIUS.

A GRUESOME CUSTOM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 19th June.

SIR.—It is not quite the fact that the ordeal of "boiling the bones" has been out of use in China for 500 years, as stated in your yesterday's extract from the *Shanghai Times*. A somewhat similar case occurred at Hankow in 1882. A death by suspected poisoning occurred a little farther up the river and the parties concerned being influential, a commission was sent from Peking to enquire into the matter. The body after a year's burial was exhumed and sent down to Hankow for trial. A temporary kitchen was built outside Wuchang, and water from the middle of the Yangtze being used as most pure, the "remains" were duly cooked. Then the story goes on to say that the resulting liquid was tasted by the experts. As a sequel it was said that they were all very sick. One of the tests was—whether there were black marks on the bones or not; and to the best of my recollection the result was inconclusive, the operation having been spoiled by the officer who conducted the affair putting salt in the water. He was severely punished for this mistake. Some of the judges held one opinion and some another and they sailed away from Hankow under a salute of guns. I happened to be arriving at Hankow at this juncture after a long absence, and my enquiry as to the occasion of the noise brought forth this story.

Yours truly,

L.

NEW METEOROLOGICAL DATA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir.—The increasing amount of meteorological information, and the daily development of trade in the Far East, have decided us to add a new feature to our service. Henceforth we shall issue a Daily Weather Chart.

The new publication will, of course, be imperfect in the beginning; it will, for instance, be impossible to construct the map from data strictly corresponding to the same physical instant at all the stations. This drawback (common to nearly every similar work in Europe) will be made good, as far as possible, by applying to the barometric pressure the most acceptable reduction. Other information on weather, wind, temperature, etc., will be given, as a rule, without alteration.

The chart will show approximately the state of the atmosphere, along our coasts, at 6 a.m. (12th meridian time). It will appear in the afternoon, as early as the telegrams received make it practicable. We hope that it will be shown at several places in the Settlements, where the public may consult it easily.

The large daily map, sent every morning (since January 1st, 1896) to the Time Ball station, will continue to be posted there. It has the advantage of being more complete, but will appear later than the new chart. On the back of the latter a table will be found, containing observations from nearly all the stations connected by telegraph with Sicawei. This will supply distinct information, different from that on which the map is based, as it will give the last observation preceding that on the map, and taken at hours clearly indicated on the table. Thus the variation of the principal data will be readily realised.

In view of the steady progress of science among the learned classes of China, and their increasing interest for meteorology, the greater part of information will be translated into Chinese.

The firms, navigating companies, clubs, etc., desirous to receive daily the new bulletins and map, may obtain it at Shanghai by a subscription (payable in advance) of 4 taels a year, 2 for six months and 1 for every quarter; at other ports the difference of postage will be charged, the parcels being sent weekly. The first issue will appear on 1st July.

I am, etc.,

LOUIS FROG, S.J.,
Director, Sicawei Observatory.
3rd June, 1906.

THE RETURNING COOLIES.

MANY RE-ENGAGE FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

The coolie transport steamer *Indravelli*, now in port, en route from Durban to Chingwantao, has on board between five and six hundred coolies, and it is in some quarters mistakenly assumed that these coolies are returning under the terms of the British Government's repatriation proclamation. That is not the case. It has been officially announced that only twelve coolies had availed themselves of the Government's offer. Only two of them are on board the *Indravelli*, the other coolies on board are either time-expired men or coolies who have been invalidated home. Every coolie ship returning from South Africa brings back a few hundred coolies, and as the contracts run out possibly the number returning may increase. But already it has been found that after a short visit to their native country the men are found ready to re-engage for further service on the Rand. Each coolie ship leaving Chingwantao—one a month now, we believe—carries about two thousand coolies to Durban.

The *World* has a couplet which admirably meets the case:

In bondage vile and chains he lay,

The handcuff on his hand;

His soul was sad, for Tories had

Enjailed him on the Rand,

And then 'twas told him he might go

Back to his native land.

Around him rang the raucous roar

Of speech and cablegram,

And shout of those who meet their foes

With show'r of shift and sham;

But all he answered was, "Oh, let

Me stay just where I am!"

WEIHAIWEI GOLD MINES.

NOW FOR SALE.

We have never been optimistic about these gold mines; but we note that some present at the first general meeting of shareholders, held at Shanghai on June 12th, spoke with a touching confidence of the possibilities "if only they had more capital."

The Directors reported that all the capital had been spent on development, but "There still remains a vast amount of work to be accomplished before the possibilities of the mine can be proved. If the directors had started with a prospect only, they would not have recommended the commencement of actual milling on anything like the scale now in progress. But their hands were forced by the fact of the actual installation of a full 20-stamp mill plant which was deteriorating by lying idle, and the fact that available funds were being rapidly exhausted and it was imperative to obtain revenue from the mine. The directors regret to report a loss on the first few months' working, which has arisen through a variety of causes, some of which may be briefly stated.

1. The machinery has required repairs which were not apparent till after actual working, and which, besides involving expenditure, necessitated the shutting down of the mill for some days.

2. The excessive cost of local supplies. The company's finances have not permitted direct importation in large quantities so as to obtain the best returns; as an instance, the item of dynamite may be cited. The company has had to pay £135 per ton, which is more than double the cost under favourable circumstances.

3. Insufficient equipment to allow the laying down of materials and carting away of concentrates at the best rates. A small tramway would effect a considerable saving in this direction. Again, the mill is not the one best suited to treat ore such as are found in our property, which are rich in concentrates and do not yield a high percentage of free gold. Further additions should be added to the mill in order to obtain the returns from the plant.

4. The expense of handling and shipping concentrates, which consumes half their value. A plant to treat the concentrates on the ground is required.

5. A temporary shortage of labour which has arrested all development work and necessitated a partial stoppage of the mill. The directors hope they are now near the end of this first labour difficulty."

They asked for patience and more capital. It was a low-grade proposition which required large volumes of ore for successful operation, and the best ore was widening as they descended. "Whether these large bodies of ore exist or not remains to be shown." Further expenditure of \$200,000 to \$250,000 was necessary to demonstrate its value. They should therefore either "ante up" or sell to a larger company. They could run the mine for six months more on what they had already extracted; but that was also an offset to the overdraft of \$20,000. They did not wish to call up the remaining dollar on the shares, but "if the shareholders were prepared to put up \$200,000, a big success and great dividends could be hoped for."

The shareholders authorised the directors to dispose of the property. [We learn to-day, 25th, that the remaining dollar on the shares is to be called for.]

NEW SHIPYARDS FOR SHANGHAI.

MORE JAPANESE COMPETITION.

There seems to be no end to the enterprise of our neighbours and allies. Mr. Matsugata, the President of the Kawasaki Dockyard Co., is said to have stated to an interviewer that the Company desires to obtain shipbuilding orders from China, Siam, and all the other Oriental countries. With this view it is purchasing about ten thousand tsubo of land at Shanghai and Pootung for the purposes of shipbuilding and repairing, with especial relation to the shipping at Shanghai and on the Yangtze. At first only repairs will be undertaken there, and eventually a dockyard on a large scale will be developed. Extensions of the Company's property are also in progress at Kobe, in consequence of the increasing size of the vessels constructed in the dockyard there.

CHINO-AUSTRALIAN TRADE.

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN: CHINESE CONSULS WEAK.

Supplementing our summarised report of the complimentary banquet to Mr. Frederic Jones, Queensland Government Commissioner, and Mr. Chu Wun-man Chinese Secretary of the Mexican Consulate, by the Guild of Australian, American and Canadian Merchants, we append, as promised last week, a note of some of the speeches.

The speaker responsible for the toast of the evening said Mr. Jones' mission was to push the products of Australia into the markets of China. He was well backed by his Government, with the result that his first and second year's visits have been a success to the extent of deciding on the permanency of his appointment in the East. In congratulating the Queensland Government in the choice of their representative the speaker thought they might congratulate themselves, as Mr. Jones was also a friend of China and the Chinese. His last achievement was the modification he had been able to obtain on the Australian Chinese Immigration Restriction Laws. As a result of Mr. Jones' efforts, certificates of exemption from the provisions of those laws were now granted to Asiatics wishing to travel and visit Australia. What Mr. Jones had done had been to a great extent due to the representations made to him by Mr. Chu Wun-man, who had always been to the fore where the vital interests of the Chinese were concerned. Mr. Chu was well aware that in order to establish a permanent and increasing trade between China and Australia it was absolutely necessary that bona fide Chinese merchants must be permitted free access to the great Continent of the Southern Cross in order that they might better study on the spot the numerous and valuable products of the land suitable to the great markets of China. This was now an accomplished fact and their thanks were due to Mr. Chu Wun-man. Mr. Jones, in responding to the toast of his health, said he took it, not as a personal matter, but that as a servant of the Government they were making him a medium for their expression of friendship and goodwill to the Australian people.

After referring to the part which the Chinese were taking in the Straits Settlements, he said that trade governed the world, and those present that night were born traders. To buy and to sell was the marrow of their bone. It was good to contemplate that their commercial integrity was of such a high order. It was because the world recognises that China was perhaps the greatest open market of the day that the future progress and development of their country was considered of such moment. He had told the people of Australia that the Chinese market would absorb every possible surplus production of theirs for many years to come. He also impressed them with the necessity of supplying the Chinese requirements exactly as they desired. He told them that the Chinaman fully understood his actual business and that it was not for them to criticise but to follow instruction. Therefore, with the knowledge that China would probably be one of Australia's most important customers, and because his Government had commissioned him to promote trade between them, when representations concerning the exclusion of the Chinese from Australia were made to him he gave the same his most earnest attention. It was not for him to discuss the laws of Australian Governments. But when he saw injustice and anomalies, when loss of trade was threatened, and when a people with whom he was endeavouring to buy and sell made complaint, then, if without infringing the main principles of the law (and they could take it from him that the Australian Immigration Restriction Acts were on their statutes for good), it was possible for him to remove friction and round off the corners of prejudice, it was his bounden duty to help and assist in so doing. But they must remember that these Acts were not directed against the Chinese alone, as in America, but that they applied to all Asiatics, even if British born. So that when he understood that certain exemptions were made to other people he insisted that whatever was granted to others must be conceded to the Chinaman. The one great thing that China

wanted was stronger consular representation abroad. It was their weak and shifting representatives to whom considerable blame was attached. His auditors were men with weight and they must see to this.

Mr. Chu Wun-man expressed the honour he felt at being associated with the Australian Commissioner in that perhaps one of the most important meetings of South Chinese traders that had yet taken place in the city of Hong-kong. Speaking as a merchant and a trader with interests in Australia like the most of them present, he said he had felt, as they also had felt, that it was not only humiliating but also a most curious proposal on the part of the Australian people that they should have free access to the shores of China and endeavour to supply them with their goods, and to reap every advantage that was to be derived from trade whilst at the same time if he or any of them desired to visit Australia to consider the business interests which they had there, the door was slammed in their face. It was more than two years ago since he had the honour of personally knowing the Australian Ambassador. In discussing that matter with himself, he expressed his determination to obtain a modification of the Australian Immigration Laws. They all know from their countrymen in Australia how difficult was the question. In a correspondence with the Brisbane newspapers last year he said that men of their class must be admitted. He had told Mr. Jones that otherwise a boycott would come. He (Mr. Jones) laughed and said, "Wun Man, boycott you must not; you keep still. I will get you the magic ticket." So it was he who had fulfilled his promise. He had saved the disastrous consequences of an industrial conflict with Australia, because as surely as there are the moon and the stars and the sun so surely would they have insisted upon their rights.

GRUESOME CEREMONY IN CHINA.

AN ANCIENT CUSTOM.

On May 31st it is said there was a most unusual scene at the village of Chen Ju, situated half-way between Nazing and Shanghai. Magistrates, prefects and a large gathering of officials, together with their retainers, attended a most unique ceremony. The story leading up to the occasion, says the *Shanghai Times*, is as follows:—Some three years ago a Chinese woman became jealous of her husband, who purchased a concubine, and in consequence strangled him and cut the body into pieces. The husband's relations asked for an inquest by the magistrate of the district. The murderer and her relations, it is alleged, then bribed the magistrate to give a verdict of death from natural causes. This was done and the man was buried in the usual way. For three years past the murdered man's relations kept petitioning for the re-opening of the inquest, and at last obtained the necessary authority from Peking.

Thursday, May 31st, saw the first step with regard to the re-opening, when the body was exhumed and the remains boiled in sambu, in accordance with the native belief that this would prove whether or not deceased was the victim of foul play. The functions commenced at 3 p.m. and lasted well into the evening. It is said that this ceremony of examining a native body for examination has not been performed in China for over 500 years, consequently there was a very large gathering of native spectators besides foreigners, many of the latter with cameras, on the scene.

SHIPPING COMPETITION.

NO JAPANESE ALLIANCE NOW.

Those who know the history of local shipping, of how first the Japanese made overtures to a Hong-kong firm and were almost scornfully denied, will be interested by the following quotation, which seems to indicate that in some quarters the tables are turning.

The *Asahi* reports that with regard to the N. Y. K. v. Butterfield and Swire competition on the Shanghai line, the latter firm has proposed to the Japanese steamship company mutually to fix their rates and "pool" their carrying, but the N. Y. K. has rejected the proposal and decided to continue competition.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

Hankow, 13th June, 1906.—Business reported since the 6th instant is as under:

	1906.	1905.
	1/2-Chests.	1/2-Chests.
Settlements	73,919	90,322

The following are statistics at date compared with the corresponding circular of last season, viz., 14th June, 1905.

	1906.	1905.
HANKOW TEA.	1/2-Chests.	1/2-Chests.
Settlements	237,229	247,898
Stock	119,108	99,743
Arrivals	356,337	347,691
	1906.	1905.
KIURIANG TEA.	1/2-Chests.	1/2-Chests.
Settlement	120,302	127,221
Stock	34,989	42,739
Arrivals	155,291	169,960

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, JUNE 9TH.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$930	16	— per picul.
Malwa Old	\$980	to	— do.
Malwa Older	\$1030	to	— do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1080	to	— do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$800	to	— do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$850	to	— do.
Patna New	\$860	to	— per chest.
Patna Old	\$830	to	— do.
Benares New	\$800	to	— do.
Benares Old	\$8	to	— do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 14th June, 1906, states:—The enquiry for the River and nearer markets mentioned in our last has continued during the interval, but it appears to be more for a demand expected to spring up rather than for one that has already matured. So far little or nothing has been bought from first hands, and it is only by the clearances of former purchases importers are able to gauge what is going on. In the earlier part there was some slight movement, but towards the close bad weather has put a stop to deliveries. It is rumoured that some of the recent shipments to Chefoo have been for transhipment to Dalny, but this needs confirmation. So far as English goods are concerned there is a decidedly more hopeful feeling, though in some classes, notably White Shirtings heavy losses are bound to be made. For the most part, however, there is nothing to be frightened of in shipments coming forward for the rest of the year, and the stocks here are cheap compared with the present laid down cost. Exchange has continued to fluctuate and bankers are acting more cautiously in their forward rates. Slightly more encouraging news has come from Corea, where it is anticipated if the crops continue to progress as favourably as they are at present, a good Autumn trade will ensue. As regards the Northern markets for American goods there is certainly a good deal in the theory of their having been overdone last year, especially in Sheetings, as the following figures of the imports into Newchwang and Tientsin for the last five years show, namely:—

1901. 1902. 1903. 1904. 1905.

N'chwang. Pieces 980,001 1,090,152 1,032,089 1,140,620 2,272,16
Tientsin 1,031,170 2,298,633 1,012,243 797,813 1,155,935

These figures are taken from the annual returns issued by the Customs and therefore include the direct shipments. The Chingwantao figures have been added to Tientsin; other American goods are in like proportion. It is difficult to understand under these circumstances how it is stocks are so moderate there. The Manchester market shows no sign of giving way yet and Cotton keeps steady, the latest Liverpool quotations 6.11d. for Mid American and 10.4d. for Egyptian. There is no enquiry for staple goods

for shipment ahead, home prices being so much over what holders are quite willing to sell at. For Fancy Goods, both printed and dyed, a few indents on retail lines are being booked, but entirely for specialities. The tendency at auction has been rather firmer for Manchester Grey Shirtings of all weights, while White Shirtings may be called steady, the sales showing no special features. In Drills and Sheetings it is as difficult as ever to effect sales, even at Auction and practically without reserve, some weak holders being very desirous of getting rid of their stocks, and letting some one else carry them. Fancy Goods.—The firmer tone noted in our last of the Auction prices for East Black Cotton Italians is confirmed by the sale this morning, when prices for all but one or two insignificant lines show further advances. Turkey Reds on the other hand had a downward tendency. The forward enquiry is very slack and indents have been confined to a few specialities in Prints chiefly. Woollens—Long Ells and Lastings have shown slightly better results at the auctions. Camlets exhibiting the same inconsistencies in prices as usual. Spanish Stripes show little change. Cotton Yarn.—Indian—Buying during the interval has been a little more general, but nevertheless the total quantity settled is smaller than last week. Prices seem to have fluctuated with the ups and downs of Exchange, on the whole looking fairly steady. Newchwang has taken some of the No. 10s, and it is said Tientsin some of the No. 12s, the balance of all counts being for the River markets.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular, dated Shanghai, 11th June, 1906, states:—Gallnuts.—Business in usual Galls has been somewhat aided by a drop in exchange and several transactions have transpired. In plum-shaped there is nothing offering. Cowhides.—First cost prices are somewhat lower which, combined with a more favourable exchange, has brought this article again within the reach of home buyers. Stocks, however, are limited and an extensive business is consequently impossible. Tobacco.—Nothing doing. Feathers.—Prices for the different qualities are ruling high and business is very restricted. Cotton.—A few small parcels of Hankow Cotton have come out in the interval and have found ready buyers at home. Tallow.—A few transactions in green Kiu Veg. Tallow have transpired. Strawbraid.—Supplies in Shanghai remain very short and business is practically at a standstill, whilst Tsingtau is doing a large business in mottled Braids. There are small stocks of Split and Loyeh white but prices are too high to tempt intending buyers. Goatskin Rugs.—The small supplies coming in find ready buyers. Wool.—Sheep.—All parcels coming to this market have been placed at current prices.

HANKOW, 13th June, 1906.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, Best Selected	Tls. 36.75
Do. Seconds	32.00
Buffalo Hides, Best Selected	17.75
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white color (nom.)	9.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	12.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	11.25
White China Grass, Sinschan and/or Chayu	12.50
Green China Grass, Szechuen	5.50
Jute	9.80
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	9.60
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchew and/or Macheng	9.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	10.00
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiu	15.80
Animal Tallow	18.50
Gallnuts, usual shape	9.00
Do. Plum do.	11.00
Tobacco, Tingchow	10.00
Do. Wongkong	11.00
Black Bristles	Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck (nom.)
Turmeric	3.50
Sesamum Seed	3.90
Sesamum Seed Oil	8.00
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	(nom.)
Wood Oil	8.00
Tea Oil	10.00

Per steamer Jason, sailed on 15th June. For Port Said:—12 cases glass bangles. For Beyrouth:—10 rolls matting. For Havre:—36 bales canes. For Havre or London or Continent:—208 boxes camphor, 45 boxes bristles. For London:—421 rolls matting, 1,093 packages firecrackers, 1,088 bales canes, 179 cases shells, 100 casks preserves, 124 bales feathers, 534 packages merchandise. For London & Glasgow:—100 cases ginger. For London or Continent:—167 bales galangal, 68 bales feathers, 65 cases bristles, 200 bales cassia, 363 rolls matting, 200 bales canes. For Glasgow:—17 cases chinaware. For Manchester:—125 bales waste silk. For Amsterdam:—14 cases private effects. For Antwerp:—65 bales bristles

Per P. & O. steamer Dongola, sailed on 18th June. For Liverpool:—2,120 bales hemp. For London or Hamburg:—105 bags shells. For Gibraltar:—1 case cigars, 2 cases silk, 2,041 bales hemp, 3,146 packages tea (from Foochow), 1,782 packages tea, 2 cases private effects, 85 cases chinaware, 5 cases woodware, 8 cases silks. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For Lyons:—121 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—42 bales raw silk, 452 bales waste silk, 2 cases feathers. For London:—3 cases lacquerware, &c., 170 bales waste silk, 67 bales raw silk, 10 cases vermillion, 4 cases feathers, 4 cases opium, 2 packages sundries.

Per P. & O. steamer Palawan, sailed on 20th June. For London:—300 cases cassia, 19 packages private effects, &c., 92 cases camphor, 5 cases lacquerware, 324 bales hemp, 3 cases feathers, 10 cases vermillion, 1 case silks, 20 bales canes, 25 cases bristles, 45 rolls straw hats, 12 bales waste silk, 1,323 packages fire crackers, 6 cases wood ware, 4 cases ginger 2 cases pianolas. For Liverpool:—2 bales hemp.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 15th June.—Business has been very dull during the past fortnight. From Saigon to this, the rate has dropped from 14 cents to 12 cents, with only a limited demand at the latter price; to Singapore, one fixture at 14 cents; to Philippines, a small lot of 20,000 piculs for Cebu, placed at 28 cents. From Newchwang to Canton, several charters closed at 20 cents, but no further demand. From the Yangtze/Southwards, no inquiry. From South Japan Coal port to Hongkong, \$1.35 per ton last; to Hongay, \$1.60 per ton; to Swatow, \$1.55 per ton. From Java to Hongkong, two steamers have been closed at 28 cents. The following are the settlements:—

Hoihow—British steamer, 899 tons, Newchwang to Canton (20,000 piculs), 20 cents per picul.

Kweiyang—British steamer, 1,062 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 20 cents per picul

Daphne—German steamer, 1,415 tons, Kuchinotzu to Swatow, \$1.5 per ton.

Victorious—British steamer, 2,232 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongay, \$1.60 per ton.

Benaron—British steamer, 2,349 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.35 per ton.

Binhuan—French steamer, 933 tons, Hongay to Saigon, \$2.50 per ton.

Marie—German steamer, 1,169 tons, one port North Coast Java to Hongkong, 28 cents per picul.

Brand—Norwegian steamer, 1,519 tons, two ports North Coast Java to Hongkong, 28 cents per picul (10,000 piculs).

Kuiusberg—German steamer, 846 tons, Saigon to Cebu (20,000 piculs), at 28 cents per picul.

Dagny—Norwegian steamer, 882 tons, Saigon to Singapore or Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Phuyen—French steamer, 1,298 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Telemachus—British steamer, 1,340 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13½ cents per picul.

Nanshan—British steamer, 1,299 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13½ cents per picul.

Laertes—British steamer, 1,514 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12 cents per picul.

Rein—Norwegian steamer, 725 tons, Rajang to Hongkong, \$9,000 lump sum.

Skramstad—Norwegian steamer, 860 tons, monthly, 4/1/1 months, at \$8,000 per month.

FREIGHT.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Freight Market Report, dated Shanghai 7th June, 1906, states:—Since our last everything has continued extremely dull indeed, and we have no change to report in our Homeward Freight Market. Coastwise:—This remains unchanged, with poor rates all round. There is hardly any demand for tonnage from Japan, and only a few enquiries from the River Ports.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 46/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 41/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) 32/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) Tea 39/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland) Tea G. \$14 cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai: Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.00 to 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 22nd June, 1906.—The market continues dull, and we have only a small investment business and some rearrangements of the small settlements due on the 29th inst. to report. Rates in our local stocks, with but very few exceptions, still show a tendency to weakness.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais have been in demand all the week at \$815, but no shares are forthcoming, and at the close buyers would probably spring the rate if they were fairly certain of getting shares. There are none however on the market, and higher rates seem probable. Nationals have been placed at \$38.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions continue in demand at \$810, but no shares are obtainable except at an advance, which buyers do not appear to be willing to make at the moment. China Traders continue with buyers, but with no sales to report. Cantous have ruled rather weaker and at time of closing sellers rule the market at \$352.50. The Northern Insurances remain quiet and without local business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs are still in request at quotation, but shares continue scarce. Chinas have been placed at \$85 and more are wanted at that rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos have been enquired for all the week at \$25.50, but only a very few shares have changed hands, and the market closes with an improved demand at \$25. Indos have ruled much weaker, and with the cessation of demand from Shanghai the rate gradually declined without sales, the market closing quiet at quotation. Douglasses have found buyers at \$40 $\frac{1}{2}$ and close with further buyers at that rate. Shell Transports have been booked at 27/- and close with probable buyers. China Manilas and Star Ferries have been quite neglected.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have further declined to \$160 without business. Luzons remain quiet and unchanged.

MINING.—A few Raubs have found buyers at \$3 $\frac{1}{2}$; further than this we have nothing to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, with sellers and no buyers, have again weakened, and at time of closing sellers rule the market at \$155. Kowloon Wharves have also declined to \$102 with sellers and no sales. Shanghai Docks continue fairly steady at Tls. 113 without any local business to report. Hongkews have slightly weakened to Tls. 22 $\frac{1}{2}$.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands are obtainable at the reduced rate of \$117; no sales are reported. Kowloon Lands have been placed at the reduced rate of \$98, and Humphreys' Estates at \$11 and \$11 $\frac{1}{2}$, closing steady at the latter rate. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

COTTON MILLS.—With the exception of Laou Kung Mows, which have fallen to Tls. 68, we have nothing to report under this heading.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have been placed at \$7, Cements at \$28, and Electrics at \$15. Ices and Laundrys are enquired for at quotations. China Providents have found buyers at \$9, closing with further sellers at that rate, but with an unsatisfied demand at \$8.90. We have nothing further to report.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai..	\$125	\$815, buyers London, 492.5s.
National B. of China		
A. Shares	£5	\$38, sales
Bell's Asbestos E. A. 12s. 6d.	£72	buyers
China-Borneo Co.....	\$12	\$7, sales
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$10
China Provident	\$10	\$9, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 70
Hongkong.....	\$10	\$14, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 65
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 68
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 310
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$102, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$155, sellers
New Amoy Dock...	\$62	\$18, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng Co., Ltd	Tls. 100	Tls. 113
S'hai & H. Wharf... Tls. 100	Tls. 222	
Fenwick & Co., Geo..	\$25	\$22, sellers
G. Island Cement ...	\$10	\$28, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas...	£10	\$175
Hongkong Electric...	\$10	\$15, sales
H. H. L. Tramways...	\$100	\$235
Hongkong Hotel Co...	\$50	\$130, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.....	\$25	\$240, buyers
Hongkong Rope Co...	\$10	\$29, sellers
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$9
Insurances —		
Canton	\$50	\$352 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
China Fire.....	\$20	\$85, sales & buy
China Traders	\$25	\$98, buyers
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$305, buyers
North China.....	£5	Tls. 85
Union	\$100	\$810, buyers
Yantze	\$60	\$175
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Investi...	\$100	\$117, sellers
Humphreys' Estate...	\$10	\$111, sellers
Kowloon Land & B...	\$30	\$38, sales
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 110
West Point Building	\$50	\$53
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fr. 250	\$450, nominal
Raubs.....	18.10	\$31, buyers
Philippine Co.	\$10	15
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$160, sellers
Luzon Sugar.....	\$100	\$20, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$20
Douglas Steamship...	\$50	\$40, sales & buy
H. Canton & M. ...	\$15	\$25 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers
Indo-China S.N. Co...	£10	\$77, sellers
Shell Transport Co...	£1	27/-, sales & buy
Star Ferry	\$10	\$30
Do. New	\$5	\$21
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$50	\$50
South China M. Post...	\$25	\$20, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$6, buyers
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M. & Co...	\$10	\$32
Powell & Co., Wm...	\$10	\$10 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Watkins.....	\$10	\$5, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S...	\$10	\$13 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9
Do. Founders.....	\$10	\$160

VERNON & SMYTH Brokers

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending the 14th June, 1906, states:—There has been rather an improvement in busi-

ness during the past week, principally coverin for the approaching Settlement, very few investors coming into the market. The T.T. rate on London to-day is 2.10%. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have been placed locally at \$820 ex 73. Fire and Marine Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indos. A fair business has been done in these shares, but principally for cash and June. Cash shares were placed on the 9th at Tls. 53 and for June at Tls. 55, 54 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 55, on the 11th at Tls. 55 $\frac{1}{2}$, and on the 13th at Tls. 56, 57 for June. The market for the forward delivery is weak—December shares offering freely at Tls. 58 to 59. Taku Tugs are in demand locally: Shanghai Tugs Preference shares have been dealt in at Tls. 51, and Ordinary shares at Tls. 62. There are sellers at Tls. 61, no buyers over 60. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ltd. The business in this stock during the week has been very limited, although the rates remain fairly steady. Transactions are reported at Tls. 115 $\frac{1}{2}$, 116 and 115 for July. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. A good business has been done in these at Tls. 227 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 228 July, and Tls. 237 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 238 December. A cash transaction is reported at Tls. 224. Sugar Companies.—In Peraks there has been no business reported officially, but shares have changed hands privately at Tls. 102 $\frac{1}{2}$ cash. Mining—Raubs have been placed at \$2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Kaipings at Tls. 9.90, and Weihaiwei Golds at \$5. The meeting of the latter Company took place on the 12th instant, a full report of which will be found in the *North China Daily News* of the 13th instant. Lands.—No business reported. Industrial.—In Cotton Stocks the only business reported is in Ewos at Tls. 70 $\frac{1}{2}$ September delivery. Gas shares have been placed at Tls. 134. Langkats.—A good business has been done in these shares, but principally for covering June and September settlements. The market has been fairly steady; June shares have been dealt in at Tls. 231 $\frac{1}{2}$, 232 $\frac{1}{2}$, 235. There are sellers for this month at the latter rate. Buyers at Tls. 232 $\frac{1}{2}$. July shares changed hands at Tls. 235, and September at Tls. 240. Sumatras has been placed at Tls. 76 September. Stores and Hotels.—Hotel des Colonies have been dealt in at Tls. 16 and 16 $\frac{1}{2}$. Astor House Hotels at \$32, \$32 $\frac{1}{2}$ and \$33 cash, and 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ August delivery. Weeks and Company Shares have been placed at \$20. Miscellaneous—Telephones have been placed at Tls. 63. Shanghai Electrics at \$25. Debentures.—Astor House Hotel Debentures 8 per cent. have changed hands at Tls. 105, and Shanghai Land Debentures 6 per cent. at Tls. 96. Municipal Council 6 per cent. at Tls. 97. There are buyers of the latter stock at this rate.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, 25th June.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank Bills, on demand	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON LONDON.—	
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	268
Credits 4 months' sight	270
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	217
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	51 $\frac{1}{2}$
Credits, 60 days' sight	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	158
Bank, on demand	158
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	158
Bank, on demand	158
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72
Private, 30 days' sight	72 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	108
ON MANIL.—	
On demand	108
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	127 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON HAFPHONG.—On demand	24 p.c.p.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	2 p.c.p.m.
ON BING OK.—On demand	60 $\frac{1}{2}$
SOVE SIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$9.40
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$49.60
BAR SILVER, per oz	30 $\frac{1}{2}$

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

June— ARRIVALS.

14, Amara, British str., from Saigon.
 14, Cairo, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 14, Cambodia, Danish str., from Moji.
 15, Borussia, German str., from Hamburg.
 15, Ceylon Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
 15, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 15, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 15, Jura, British str., from Cardiff.
 15, Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
 15, Phranang, German str., from Amoy.
 15, Tean, British str., from Manila.
 15, Uniform, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 15, Zoroaster, British str., from Moji.
 16, Doric, British str., from San Francisco.
 16, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 16, Heimdal, Norw. str., from Haiphong.
 16, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.
 16, Mefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 16, Merapi, Dutch str., from Cheribon.
 16, Palembang, Dutch str., from Foochow.
 16, Providence, Norw. str., from Saigon.
 16, Quarta, German str., from Moji.
 16, Sainano Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 16, Shosho Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 16, Signal, German str., from Haiphong.
 16, Wingsang, British str., from Chinkiang.
 17, Chipshin, British str., from Chefoo.
 17, Dagmar, German str., from Bangkok.
 17, Germania, German str., from Saigon.
 17, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 17, Korat, German str., from Bangkok.
 17, Nord, Swedish str., from Foochow.
 17, Progress, Ger. str., from Kwangchauwan.
 17, Rajaburi, German str., from Swatow.
 17, Rio Lima, Portuguese gbt., from Macao.
 17, Shansi, British str., from Chinkiang.
 17, Taiwan, British str., from Bangkok.
 17, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., from Amoy.
 17, Waihura, British str., from Straits.
 18, City of Delhi, British str., from London.
 18, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
 18, Kueichow, British str., from Tientsin.
 18, Prominent, Norw str., from Bangkok.
 18, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 18, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 19, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
 19, China, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 19, Daphne, German str., from Swatow.
 19, Deucalion, British str., from Shanghai.
 19, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 19, Hyson, British str., from Shanghai.
 19, Indraelli, British str., from Durban.
 19, Neil Macleod, Amr. str., from Manila.
 19, Palawan, British str., from Shanghai.
 19, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
 20, Andalusia, German str., from Foochow.
 20, Apenrade, German str., from Pakhoi.
 20, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.
 20, Diadem, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
 20, Hansung, Korea str., from Chefoo.
 20, Hans Wagoer, German str., from Saigon.
 20, Hoibow, British str., from Chefoo.
 20, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 20, Hupeh, British str., from Shanghai.
 20, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 20, Nordkap, Danish str., from Copenhagen.
 20, Prenssen, German str., from Shanghai.
 20, Produce, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 20, Rajah, German str., from Bangkok.
 20, Sardinia, British str., from London.
 20, Seydlitz, German str., from Bremen.
 20, Taikosan Maru, Jap str., from K'notsu.
 21, Ben Nevis, British str., from Newcastle.
 21, H. Lerche, Rusisan str., from Shanghai.
 21, Manchuria, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
 21, Plugsuey, British str., from Liverpool.
 21, Tientsin, British str., from Saigon.
 22, Childar, British str., from Bangkok.
 22, Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
 22, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 22, Hongwan I., British str., from Straits.
 22, Nanhan, British str., from Saigon.
 22, Taming, British str., from Manila.
 22, Thea, German str., from Moji.
 22, Wray Castle, British str., from Shanghai.
 23, Aclia, German str., from Shanghai.
 23, Benlomond, British str., from Shanghai.
 23, Callao, U.S. gunboat, from Canton.
 23, Chingtu, British str., from Melbourne.
 23, Chunsang, British str., from Sourabaya.
 23, Diadem, British battleship from Mirs Bay.
 23, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.

23, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 23, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 23, Luchow, British str., from Saigon.
 23, Yangmoo, Korea str., from Kuchinotsu.
 24, Chiynen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 24, Drufar, Norwegian str., from Chinkiang.
 24, Gregory Apcar, British str., from Calcutta.
 24, Pe'chaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 24, Samsen, German str., from Bangkok.

June— DEPARTURES.

14, Gironde, French str., for Haiphong.
 14, Lothian, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Anghin, German str., for Bangkok.
 15, Borneo, German str., for Sandakan.
 15, Bombay Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 15, Greenwich, British str., for Murojan.
 15, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 15, Indrani, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Kiukiang, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, K'woon, German str., for Chinkiang.
 15, Lombard, British str., for Calcutta.
 15, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 15, Nikko Maru, Japanese str., for Australia.
 15, Sikh, British str., for Cebu.
 15, Sungkiang, British str., for Cebu.
 15, Twickenham, British str., for Sourabaya.
 15, Yochow, British str., for Canton.
 16, Atlantis, American str., for Manila.
 16, Borussa, German str., for Tsingtau.
 16, Cambodia, Danish str., for Saigon.
 16, Clara Jebsen, German str., for Bangkok.
 16, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 16, Dongola, British str., for Europe.
 16, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 16, Kwongrang, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
 16, Med. Rickmers, German str., for Swatow.
 16, Palembang, Dutch str., for Canton.
 16, Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., for N'chwang.
 16, Sikh, British str., for Cebu.
 16, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
 16, Zefiro, British str., for Manila.
 17, Binh-Thuan, French str., for Hongay.
 17, Ceylon Maru, Japanese str., for Singapore.
 17, Dagnoy, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 17, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 17, Ilano, French str., for Haiphong.
 17, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 17, Kiangping, Chinese str., for Chinkiang.
 17, Linan, British str., for Ningpo.
 17, Nicomedia, German str., for Portland.
 17, Paklat, German str., for Bangkok.
 17, Patroclus, British str., for Nagasaki.
 17, Quinta, German str., for Bangkok.
 17, Signal, German str., for Swatow.
 17, Triumph, German str., for Haiphong.
 18, Diadem, British battleship, for Mirs Bay.
 18, Keechun, British str., for London.
 18, Lise, Swedish str., for Sourabaya.
 18, Monmouth, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
 18, Rio Lima, Portuguese gunboat, for Macao.
 18, Tjipanas, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
 19, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 19, Holstein, German str., for Swatow.
 19, Kashin, British str., for Amoy.
 19, Kw'ilin, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
 9, Nippon Maru, Jap str., for San Francisco.
 19, Progres, German str., for Kwangchauwan.
 19, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
 19, Shosho Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 19, Skuld, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
 19, Tean, British str., for Manila.
 19, Waihura, British str., for Amoy.
 20, Empress of India, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 20, Hue, French str., for Kwangchauwan.
 20, Palawan, British str., for London.
 20, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., for Batavia.
 20, Yochow, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, City of Delhi, British str., for Nagasaki.
 21, Deucalion, British str., for London.
 21, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 21, Hyson, British str., for Liverpool.
 21, Kaifong, British str., for Iloilo.
 21, Manita, British str., for Bangkok.
 21, Palembang, Dutch str., for Amoy.
 21, Preussen, German str., for Europe.
 21, Seydlitz, German str., for Shanghai.
 21, Telena, British str., for Singapore.
 22, Andalusia, German str., for Hamburg.
 22, Appalachia, British str., for Moji.
 22, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 22, China, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 22, Falk, Norwegian str., for Navasa Island.
 22, Hangang, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Hermann Lerche, Russian str., for Odessa.
 22, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 22, Hupeh, British str., for Canton.

22, Loongwo, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Mefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 22, Merapi, Dutch str., for Amoy.
 22, Peik, Norwegian str., for Iloilo.
 22, Prominent, Norwegian str., for Brookton.
 22, Sardinia, British str., for London.
 22, Uniform Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 22, Ynensang, British str., for Manila.
 23, Benarty, British str., for Nagasaki.
 23, Fiume, German str., for Saigon.
 23, Kweichow, British str., for Tientsin.
 23, Loyal, German str., for Bangkok.
 23, Nordkap, Danish str., for Yokohama.
 23, Pingsuey, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 23, Shajehan, British str., for Saigon.
 23, Taikosan Maru, Jap. str., for Kuchinotsu.
 23, Tholma, Norwegian str., for Sourabaya.
 23, Zoroaster, British str., for Christmas Isld.
 24, Dagmar, German str., for Bangkok.
 24, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 24, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
 24, Haiman, British str., for Tamsui.
 24, Hirundo, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 24, Hongwan I., British str., for Amoy.
 24, Wray Castle, British str., for New York.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Doric, from San Francisco, &c., Miss Evan Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Armitage, Mrs. A. W. Cornwall, Mr. Guy Slaughter, Mrs. W. E. Ritter, Mrs. A. W. Stanford, Mr. and Mrs. Buckner Speed and child, Capt. Fred. Koford, Miss Ada Dorr, Messrs. John R. Edgar, R. Thomas, A. Cornwall, Miss A. Chapman, Mrs. F. S. Maloney.

Per Preussen, for Hongkong from Yokohama, Messrs. N. Suda, R. Shiboy, Th. C. Hu, F. C. Ahren and K. Gornamal; from Kobe, Capt. Ord. Mr. H. Suter and child and Mr. R. H. King; from Nagasaki, Mr. River, Mrs. J. Makino, Mrs. Oma, Mrs. T. Taki, Mr. Tetsobelnitski, Miss Miyasaki Shige and Mr. K. Matsumoto; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Leitao, Mrs. A. W. Bahr and child, Mr. M. H. Michael, Miss Cassia, Mr. Wortmann, Mrs. Dallas, Messrs. G. Bohm, S. A. Lewis, S. Juojuna, W. Armstrong, F. C. Wilks, F. A. Boose, R. J. Raymond, F. C. and B. Joven, F. de Leon, Mrs. T. P. de Silva, Miss v. Hartwig, Messrs. Hansi and Matsumoto, Mr. and Mrs. A. Tamaki, Miss Nakayama, Miss T. Koschima, Miss Hirano, Miss Masuda, and Miss Tayawa; from F. ocho, Mr. Eckhardt.

Per Manchuria, from San Francisco, &c., Messrs. V. Buencamino and J. M. Brown, Miss Frances Coulter, Judge and Mrs. J. S. Chapman, Miss Mary Chapman, Miss Martha A. Colman, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Garland, Mr. E. W. Helm, Mrs. C. M. M. Julian-James, Messrs. F. R. Millas, H. G. Murray, Mrs. A. B. McCutchen, Master Jack McCutchen, Dr. F. H. H. Old, U.S.N., Miss Harrison, Mr. L. K. Ming, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Chapin, Surg. Gen. and Mrs. P. M. Rixey, U.S.N., Mrs. M. Surr, Mrs. Susana Surr, Messrs. Anto. M. Taison, Paul Holman, Miss Lane, Miss Robinson, Miss Winearls, Mr. L. B. Gubbins, Maj. and Mrs. L. S. McCormick, U.S.A., Lieut. and Mrs. D. F. Craig, U.S.A., Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Huke, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. J. A. Hull, U.S.A.

DEPARTED.

Per Dongola, from Hongkong for Singapore, Mr. W. Moens, Lieut. Yates, R.E., Messrs. H. L. Tann, Justice Barrington, Mrs. Baggridge and infant, Messrs. H. L. Fletcher, J. Holloway, A. J. Huskes, S. J. Sang and Gaston Menasche, for Colombo, Capt. F. L. Bennett, Major L. H. Carleton; for Bombay, Mr. A. Mair; for Marseilles, Mr. Geo. Saul, Mrs. M. C. Brooks, Mr. J. A. Walker; for London, Mearns. J. M. Piper and J. L. Huhees and Mrs. Renell.

Per Nippon Maru, for San Francisco, &c., Dr. R. G. H. Foster, Mrs. W. F. Foster, Mr. E. L. Hunter, Miss Eva M. Stevens, Mrs. J. S. Maloney, Mr. A. W. Stanford, Miss Ada Dorr, Messrs. F. L. Hayford, John R. Edgar, Guy T. Slaughter, Mrs. E. W. Ritter, Mr. and Mrs. B. Speed and infant, Mrs. E. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Cornwall, Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Potts and Mr. Pheasant.

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